

Experiential Learning Report

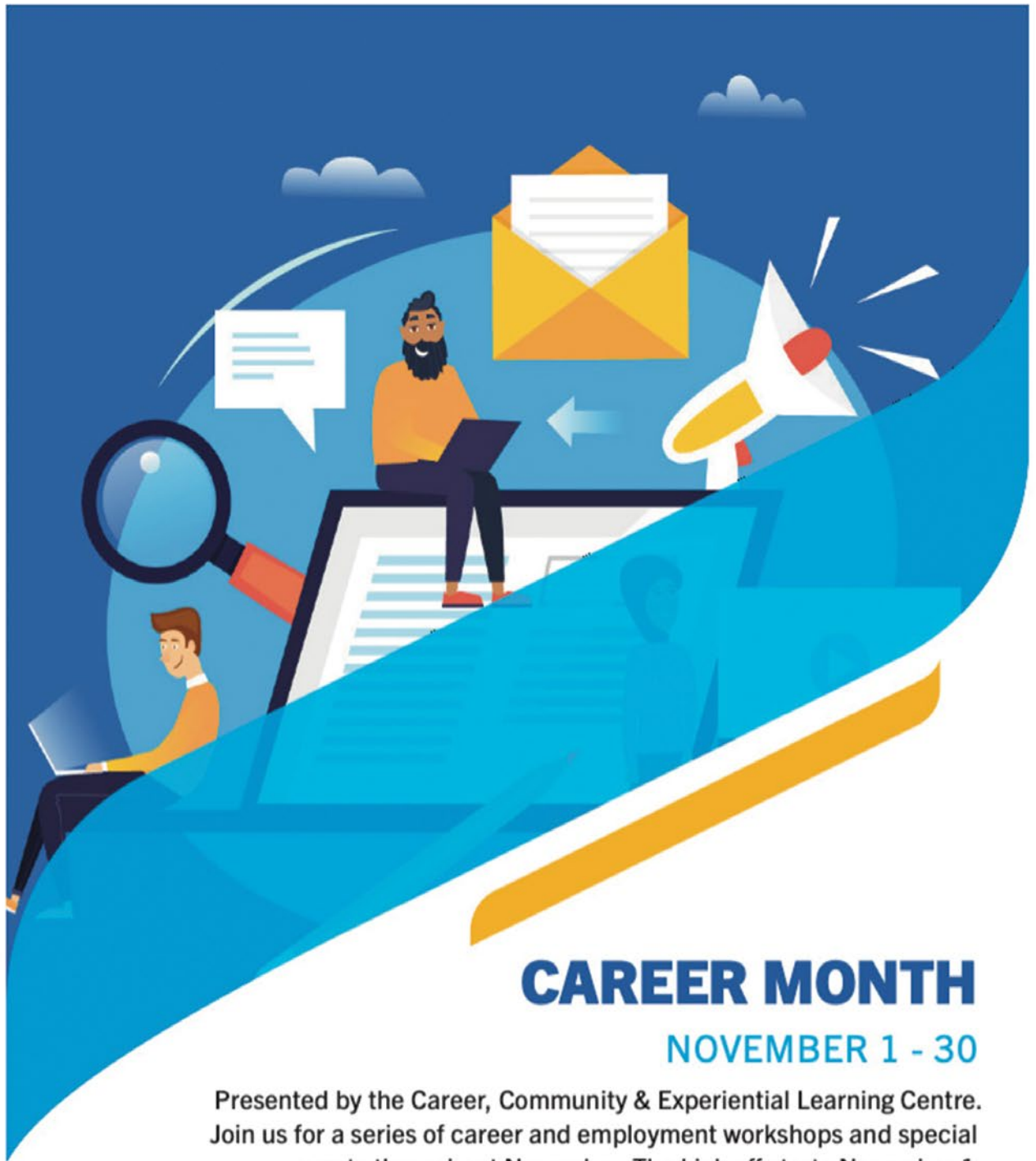
SUMMER 2024



EXTERNSHIPS – MOOT COMPETITIONS – CLINICAL OPPORTUNITIES



University
of Manitoba | Faculty of Law



CAREER MONTH

NOVEMBER 1 - 30

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Experiential Learning Report / Summer 2024

Faculty of Law
University of Manitoba

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Introduction: Letter from the Director of Clinics

A year of exceptional progress

by Elizabeth McCandless, Director of Clinics



I am delighted to introduce the inaugural edition of the Faculty of Law Experiential Learning Report, which showcases the remarkable growth of clinical offerings for law students at the Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba. We have seen a significant expansion of experiential learning opportunities at Robson Hall in recent years, and the 2023-2024 year stands out as a period of exceptional progress.

The Faculty of Law's externship programs, court clerkship programs, and moot court advocacy competitions continue a tradition of experiential learning at Robson Hall. The faculty's expansion of experiential learning opportunities aligns with the Faculty of Law's strategic plan and furthers access to justice objectives. While traditional law school courses provide students with the skills and knowledge required to "think like a lawyer," experiential learning allows students to apply their newly acquired skills and knowledge in meaningful ways. By integrating experiential learning into the curriculum, we are empowering students to become empathetic, skilled advocates who will be better equipped to respond to the legal challenges of the communities we serve.

Between 2022 and 2024, the Faculty of Law expanded its externships and other clinical programs to provide more learning and service opportunities for students.

The Cochrane Saxberg Indigenous Community Legal Clinic launched in the fall of 2022, led by the faculty's Director of Indigenous Legal Learning and Services, Marc Kruse. In the summer of 2022, the Faculty established the Rights Clinic, which offers students the opportunity to use advocacy skills toward rights-related issues for community groups. New externship programs with the Department of Justice, the Law Library Hub, and Women's Legal Education and Action Fund were created in the fall of 2023. These newly established programs add to the faculty's existing partnerships with the University of Manitoba Community Law Centre, the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic, the Legal Help Centre, the Public Interest Law Centre, and the Manitoba Law Reform Commission. Approximately half the third-year student body participated in these clinical offerings in 2023-2024.

As we celebrate the achievements of everyone who has been involved in experiential learning programs in 2023-2024 (including students, community partners, lawyer supervisors, judges, faculty, and staff), we also look to the future and the continuing growth of our programs. As part of the Faculty's commitment to experiential learning, in 2023 Robson Hall opened the doors to a state-of-the-art clinical space generously funded by L. Kerry Vickar that provides students and supervising lawyers the opportunity to meet and work collaboratively. We also welcomed a new Director of Access to Justice and Community Engagement, Natasha Brown.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the previous Director of Clinics, and new addition to the Provincial Court of Manitoba, Judge David Ireland. Judge Ireland's dedication to experiential learning has not only left a positive mark on our law school but has inspired many emerging law graduates to use their skills to try to improve the justice system in Manitoba and beyond.

I invite you to read this report and learn about the significant progress in experiential learning at Robson Hall. ■

Part One: Externships

The Faculty of Law offers third-year *Juris Doctor* students intensive clinical placements known as externships. These are defined as courses for which a student receives 12-credit hours. Externships provide students with a chance to apply classroom knowledge to a real-life context. Students gain legal skills under the support and supervision of an on-site supervising lawyer at each Externship. Students work a total of approximately 18 hours per week in the Fall term and 18 per week in the Winter term in their externship placement. Externship students complete the mandatory upper-year course Legal Profession and Professional Responsibility in their second year.

For the 2023-2024 academic year, there were nine available externship placement opportunities:

1. **University of Manitoba Community Law Centre (UMCLC) Criminal Law Externship**
2. **Manitoba Law Reform Commission (MLRC) Externship**
3. **Legal Help Centre of Winnipeg (LHC) Externship**
4. **Indigenous Community Legal Clinic Externship**
5. **Manitoba Department of Justice Externship**
6. **L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic Externship**
7. **Public Interest Law Centre (PILC) Externship**
8. **Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) Externship**
9. **Law Library Hub Externship**

Students finishing their second year of law school wishing to take an Externship, typically apply for one by early June. Externship placements are an exciting and challenging way to put legal knowledge into action and gain additional skills that will benefit students greatly in their legal careers.

What follows are detailed descriptions of each externship including significant news stories about each.

University of Manitoba Community Law Centre (UMCLC)



Legal Aid Manitoba
L'Aide Juridique du Manitoba

The University of Manitoba Community Law Centre (UMCLC) externship offers third-year students valuable experience in criminal law practice. Participants earn class credits while enhancing their legal skills through academic instruction, fieldwork and court observation. As part of the externship, students attend the University of Manitoba Community Law Center at 100-287 Broadway, representing Legal Aid Manitoba clients in summary conviction criminal cases and the newly added Family Law and Prison Law services. They assist a supervising lawyer with legal research, document drafting, and manage their own caseloads under supervision. This comprehensive experience equips students with practical skills and insights valuable beyond law school.

Expansion of University Law Centre services to help more Manitobans get Access to Justice

Legal Aid Manitoba and the Faculty of Law add family & prison law to law students' portfolios

by **Christine Mazur**



(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on March 12, 2022.)

On Valentine's Day, 2022, a very special long-term relationship was deepened between two very compatible parties. Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of the Faculty of Law, and Peter Kingsley, Q.C., Executive Director of Legal Aid Manitoba, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the expansion of services offered within the University of Manitoba Community Law Centre (UMCLC).

While the partnership between the Faculty of Law and Legal Aid Manitoba in relation to the UMCLC has existed for nearly 50 years, in the past few years, the leadership of both organizations has identified a need to strengthen that relationship. The mutual initiative and leadership of both Jochelson and Kingsley resulted in this agreement to expand services.

“Up until this time students from the UMCLC have been handling mainly criminal and a small number of civil and administrative law cases each year,” said Michael Walker, Supervising Attorney and staff lawyer at Legal Aid. “The new plan for services means that the provision of criminal law services will expand so that a greater number of Manitobans are served by students from the UMCLC and that services will include assisting with appeals to the Court of Queen’s Bench and the Manitoba Court of Appeal.”

Walker added that the expansion of services will include family law, prison law and Indigenous legal services.

“The proposed expansion is a step in increasing access to justice for all Manitobans,” said Assistant Professor

David Ireland who will be working this year with Walker to transition to taking over supervision of the Centre for the 2023 – 2024 academic year. “By expanding our civil, administrative, and family law capabilities the students, in conjunction with Legal Aid Manitoba we will provide more services to more people than ever before. We are constantly adding to the suite of practical skills students are learning while at Robson Hall.”

The additional Family law services students will be tasked with will include uncontested divorce hearings, cohabitation agreements, and custody agreements. Prison law services will include representing prison populations at institutional discipline hearings, drafting and filing applications under the *Correctional Services Act* and the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* and related statutes and regulations.

Law students will also be providing services for Indigenous clients including representation for record suspension applications and *Indian Act* status applications. Students will be trained to prioritize and give effect to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission when assisting Indigenous clients.

Generally speaking, as outlined in the new MOU, the continued and expanded relationship between Legal Aid and the Faculty of Law will continue to give law students a clinical learning opportunity, connect with supervising lawyers, and provide the broader community with legal services that are held to the standards of the Law Society of Manitoba’s Code of Professional Conduct.

The UMCLC first opened in the basement of Robson Hall in 1972, providing law students with experiential learning opportunities primarily in relation to criminal law ever since. Walker started as a student volunteer during his second year of law school in 1984 when Professor David Deutscher was the supervising lawyer.

Recalling how supportive Deutscher was, Walker said, “When I was preparing for my very first trial something came up the evening prior to the trial that was really concerning. I phoned Professor Deutscher at home at about 8:00 p.m. and he explained to me how to

handle the situation. His willingness to take calls from students at any time to deal with concerns and answer questions has had an impact on me as a supervisor at the UMCLC. During volunteer orientation I always tell students that I would rather they call me on a Saturday about a case than worry all weekend.”

After establishing a career as a criminal defence lawyer at Legal Aid Manitoba, Walker returned to his alma mater in 2004 to volunteer along with a number of other Legal Aid staff lawyers, assisting Deutscher with case supervision. When Deutscher retired in 2015, Walker took over as the supervising attorney and has felt fortunate to have had the opportunity to work in that role. “It’s satisfying to watch students become more competent and confident as they gain practical experience,” he said. “From time to time, I receive compliments from Judges and crown attorneys about how well students have handled cases in court. That’s so gratifying!” ■

Law students will also be providing services for Indigenous clients including representation for record suspension applications and Indian Act status applications.

Homecoming 2022: Celebrating a 50-year partnership between Legal Aid Manitoba and Robson Hall

Christine Mazur



The Honourable Judge Rocky Pollack, Q.C. [BA/1969; LLB/1972] was a student at the clinic in 1971 – 72. Source, UM Faculty of Law Yearbook, 1972

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on October 6, 2022)

The Faculty of Law hosted its 2022 Homecoming event on September 21 in collaboration with Legal Aid Manitoba to celebrate the 50-year partnership that has existed between the two institutions. Since 1972, Legal Aid lawyers have supervised law students working at the University of Manitoba Community Law Centre (known as the Legal Aid clinic) to provide experiential learning opportunities to law students and ensure access to justice to persons who cannot afford a lawyer.

During the virtual event that was attended by more than 70 alumni from as far away as Melbourne, Australia and Victoria, British Columbia, guests heard greetings from The Honourable Judge Wanda Garreck [LLB/1990] on behalf of the Manitoba Provincial Court; Peter Kingsley, Q.C., Executive Director of Legal Aid Manitoba; Erin Wilcott, Executive Director of the Manitoba Law Foundation, and Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of Law. Associate Professor David Ireland [LLB/2010; LLM/2014], Director of Clinics at the law school, acted as host, and moderated two panel discussions – one of supervising lawyers, and one of former students from the clinic’s past, present and future.

During her greetings, Judge Garreck shared that she and her fellow members of the bench are always pleased to see student lawyers in their courtrooms. “Judges see students as enthusiastic, well-prepared and well-supervised,” she said.

Recalling her own days as a law student working at the clinic, she encouraged current students to take advantage of the opportunities the clinic offers to gain experience and make connections. “It’s a good way to start your reputation,” she said.

Professor David Deutscher who acted as clinic supervisor from 1977 to 2015, explained that the clinic first got started as a result of movement by the law students wanting to both help people and get hands-on experience. “It was a period of experimentation,” he said. His goal as supervisor was to ensure that student representation would not be perceived as “bargain basement” but rather that it would be the same if not better than paid representation.

Legal Aid lawyer Michael Walker [LLB/1985] supervised the clinic from 2015 to current times, and saw students adapt to new technology and the expansion of services as per a new Memorandum of Understanding that was signed this past spring between Legal Aid and the Faculty. The expansion will include family law, prison law and Indigenous legal services. Walker is now poised to hand over the reins to Ireland, who was himself a clinic student. “It’s a community-building clinic,” Walker emphasised.


The Honourable Judge Rocky Pollack, Q.C. [BA/1969; LLB/1972] was a student at the clinic in 1971 – 72. Upon first starting law school, he didn’t recall having any sense of wanting to help “the little guy,” but soon became inspired by his experiences at the clinic, working with fellow student Randy McNichol and the clinic’s supervisor at the time, Al McGregor, who he described as “a hot-shot criminal lawyer” who ran a strict clinic. “It was an interesting time to be a law student,” he recalled. Working at the clinic inspired him to want to be a “lawyer of change,” he said.

Diane (Demeule) Hartley Holley [LLB/1995] brought the unique perspective of having worked at the clinic as an administrative assistant from 1979 until 1986, during which time she helped guide many of the student volunteers. By 1990, she herself had enrolled in law school part time and was a volunteer at the clinic during her time as a student at Robson Hall. After graduating in 1995, articulated at Legal Aid’s Brandon-based Westman Community Law Centre before practicing primarily family and criminal law with Sims & Company in Minnedosa.

Finally, Hayley Allardyce [JD/2019], now a junior associate at criminal defence firm Campbell Gunn Inness Seib, shed light on current clinical experiences, recalling how “the clinic was a safe place to learn the

practice of criminal law.” She especially noted how law students had the luxury of time that practicing lawyers did not, and was thankful for the ability to call her supervising lawyer Mike Walker for help as needed. Further illustrating the supportive community surrounding the clinic and its activities, Allardyce shared that at her first trial, for which she had prepared for hours, she had forgotten to mention a critical issue in her conclusion, but the Crown graciously rose and prompted her in a supportive way.

Legal Aid Manitoba will continue to celebrate its 50th anniversary throughout 2022. Details about the new Memorandum of Understanding signed between Legal Aid and the Faculty of Law regarding expansion of services at the clinic can be found in the UM Today story [“Expansion of University Law Clinic services to help more Manitobans get Access to Justice.”](#)



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Michael Walker: A legal career path built by experience

by **Christine Mazur**



Michael Walker graduated from the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law at Robson Hall in 1985. As a student, he volunteered at the University of Manitoba Community Law Centre (known as UMCLC or the Legal Aid Clinic) under Professor Deutscher. He articulated at Legal Aid Manitoba and spent his whole career at LAM practicing criminal law as a staff lawyer and then later as an office supervisor. He began to volunteer, assisting with student supervision at the clinic in 2004 and became the clinic director in 2015. He retired from LAM in 2020 and concluded his last year as clinic director in 2024.

Michael was a sessional instructor for the **UMCLC Externship** which is a 3L course in which students learn criminal law practice skills while handling cases from the clinic. Michael believes that the UMCLC fulfills an important access to justice function for persons who would not otherwise have representation.

As Michael finished his last year as clinic director, he shared some insights into his career and the importance of experiential learning as part of a complete legal education.

What drew you to law school?

After completing a Bachelor of Arts degree I decided

that I wanted to continue my education with a degree that would lead to a career. I decided on a law degree because I knew it would be useful in a wide variety of employment settings.

Did you work at the UMCLC as a student?

I volunteered at the UMCLC as a second and third year student. It was a great experience and it changed my career path.

How did you later get involved with the UMCLC as a practicing lawyer?

In 1994 Professor David Deutscher was the supervisor of the clinic providing all of the case supervision. He needed help because of the large number of cases and volunteers. I'd had such a great experience as a student volunteer that I jumped at the chance to become one of the supervising lawyers. I really enjoy providing one on one case supervision to students so I continued to volunteer as a supervising lawyer until I became the supervisor of the clinic.

What have been your most favourite memories while working as the UMCLC's supervising lawyer?

I don't know if I have favourite memories. But every day I get to see students apply what they've learned through their coursework to real case situations. It's so satisfying to see students develop skills and gain confidence through their work at the UMCLC. I also know that the work that students do fulfills an important access to justice function in our community.

What lies ahead for the UMCLC?

In 2022 Dean Richard Jochelson and the Executive Director of Legal Aid Manitoba, Peter Kingsley, KC, entered into a memorandum of understanding affirming their commitment to the UMCLC. It provides for the widening of service in relation to criminal law as well as the start of providing services in the areas of family and prison law. These are all areas of need in terms of access to justice for Manitobans. We now have students providing family and prison law services.


We also have students assisting lawyers from the Thompson Community Law Office with criminal cases. These are exciting times at the UMCLC as we continue to expand the areas of service.

What are your thoughts about retiring from the UMCLC?

I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend the last part of my career at the UMCLC. It has given me the opportunity to work with many wonderful students. I've enjoyed watching students learn and grow while providing valuable services to our clients. I look forward to hearing about the future career successes of the Robson Hall students I've worked with.

Do you have any comments for the new director of the UMCLC?

Allison Fenske's experience working with law students and public interest law practice experience makes her an excellent choice as the new director. I'm excited about the future of the UMCLC. It makes it easier to leave the UMCLC knowing that it's in such good hands.



I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend the last part of my career at the UMCLC. It has given me the opportunity to work with many wonderful students.

L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic Externship is an experiential learning course that combines basic instruction on fundamental organizational and transactional legal concepts with practical experience. The externship provides students with faculty-led workshops, regular feedback seminars, and practitioner-supervised legal work on client files from the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic and/or simulated scenarios. The externship offers two streams: the Business Law Clinic and the Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts. Students are exposed to solicitors' work ranging from not-for-profit, charitable, or community-based entities to start-up enterprises with limited means, provided on a pro bono basis.

Named for its benefactor, alum L. Kerry Vickar [LLB/80], the Clinic has offered numerous Manitoba law students the chance to get hands-on, practical experience in business law since 2014. Information and services are provided by third-year law students free of charge to small businesses, start-ups, entrepreneurs, innovators including family businesses, non-profits, charities, the arts, cultural and community organizations who do not have a lawyer and cannot afford legal assistance in Manitoba.

L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic 2023 report

Statistics reported by supervising lawyers Nick Slonosky and Yvan Laroque at the end of the 2023 season were as follows:

- 178 clients
- 50% client base of women entrepreneurs;
- 37% client base of BIPOC entrepreneurs;
- 20% client base of emerging non-profits;
- 37% client base located outside of Winnipeg (anyone in Manitoba with an internet connection);
- An increasing number of student entrepreneurs over the past year, not only business students from Asper, but also Engineering, Sciences and the Rady Health Centre, including undergrads, Master's and PhD level students. In many cases, these are very innovative, and MITAC funded, etc.

The above graphics illustrate that assistance is from all parts of the province (and roughly parallels the population distribution by region), sectors, and the nature of the subject areas most often being sought.

Since first taking on clients in 2021, the clinic has had 65 law students at the Faculty of Law take the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic for course credit. Law students that have participated in the Business Law Clinic have provided a total of over 4,000 pro bono hours of legal services to Manitobans that do not have a lawyer and who cannot afford legal services. In response to what we anticipate will be a continuing increase in demand for services we will be increasing the number of students that can enroll into the Business Law Clinic Externship for credit next Fall by 25%.

For the past four summers, the Clinic hired law students to work full-time for the during the summer months to serve clients year-round.

The Clinic occasionally collaborates with the Asper School of Business Stu Clark Centre for Entrepreneurship where law students give a webinar talk on small business start-ups or similar topics intended for the general public. After each webinar, the clinic experiences a definite surge in client intake forms both from within the University environment, and outside the University from alumni of various faculties.

The Clinic intends to increase the number of public legal education events that its students deliver by way of live webinars, in-person events and also to make available recordings on demand on various subjects in order to reach as wide an audience as possible to help Manitobans be better informed and know their rights and obligations in business.

The Business Law Clinic maintains an online presence in its [website](#), [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#) accounts.

Law Library HUB

The Law Library Hub, located in The Great Library at the Winnipeg Law Courts Building, offers free legal services including information, referrals, and form-filling assistance to clients facing family and civil law issues, all under the supervision of a lawyer. Students enrolled in the program are required to attend the clinic, where they engage directly with clients and navigate various legal challenges. Under the supervision of a lawyer, students are responsible for managing client intake, conducting interviews, identifying legal issues, providing referrals, and drafting legal documents. In addition to these tasks, students also develop skills in written advocacy and learn effective file and case management skills. ■

Students enrolled in the program are required to attend the clinic, where they engage directly with clients and navigate various legal challenges.

Vickar gift to transform clinical space at Robson Hall

Entire experiential learning program to benefit from renovations

by **Christine Mazur**

(Adapted from the story published in [UM Today](#) on April 22, 2022)

Thanks to a generous gift from alum **L. Kerry Vickar [LL.B./1980]**, The Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba (UM Law) will finally have a physical space to house its business clinics. Room 113 will now be known as the **L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic**. Vickar's gift of \$500,000 will help to transform a large former storage room in Robson Hall's lower level into a modern, practicing clinic complete with board rooms, offices, incubator spaces, private virtual consultation booths and workspace for law students to learn the practice of law in a hands-on environment. Meanwhile, the law school's expanded clinical learning opportunities will also benefit from the re-invented learning space.

Business Law Clinic

Operating virtually for the past two years of the pandemic, the Business Law Clinic, under the direction of practicing professional lawyer Nick Slonosky [LLB/1979] and retired faculty member, former Associate Dean (JD) Lisa Fainstein [LLB/ 1979], the clinic has provided law students with hands-on experience advising small business clients while counting as a for-credit course. "This new space is part of a transformational set of opportunities for hands-on clinical experience for our students," said Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of Law. "The space will not only be a clinical hub but a site of discovery and collaboration as the clinical team reaches out to partners like the Stu Clarke Centre and North Forge and beyond to become the Manitoba engine room for access to innovation."

UMCLC expansion, Indigenous, Mediation and Rights Clinics

In addition to the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic's ongoing operations, UM Law will be increasing the number of clinical experience opportunities next year with expanded services now available to Manitobans

at the University of Manitoba Community Law Centre (UMCLC). Through an agreement with Legal Aid Manitoba, law students will be able to assist with family law, prison law and Indigenous legal services in addition to criminal law matters as before.

An Indigenous Community Legal Clinic will be for-credit starting in Fall 2022, thanks to the help of Marc Kruse [JD/2015], Indigenous Legal Studies Coordinator. A Mediation Clinic course, to be guided by Professor Jennifer Schulz and Chief Justice Glenn Joyal (Court of Queen's Bench), is slated to begin in 2023. Also, a new Rights Clinic, which is being developed and supervised by Professor Brandon Trask, will be launched later this year, with a for-credit course being offered in Fall 2022. The Rights Clinic will be a site of innovation, focusing primarily on environmental rights and civil rights work pertaining to matters of importance for vulnerable Manitobans. ■

Law space reimaged: Transforming legal learning

(Originally published in [UM Today](#))

From transforming a simple storage space to transforming the way students learn at UM Faculty of Law's Robson Hall. Take a tour of the future of legal education thanks to the incredible generosity of alum L. Kerry Vickar [LL.B./1980], and see how a former basement storage room has been reimaged into a cutting-edge business law clinic.

This story is part of a series of stories around re-imagined spaces at UM. For more stories on this topic, please check out our [In Focus](#) section.



Investment and Return

L. Kerry Vickar helps law students learn the practice of business law



UM Alum L. Kerry Vickar [LLB/1980] (centre) officially opens the business law clinical space named in his honour surrounded by law students; clinical instructors Nick Slonosky [BComm/1976; LLB/1979] and Yvan Larocque (left of door); Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of Law and Stephanie Levene [BA/1999; BComm/2022; MBA/2008], Associate VP (Alumni and Donor Relations) (right of Vickar). Photo by Mike Latschislaw.

by Christine Mazur

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on October 27, 2023)

Faculty of Law alum L. Kerry Vickar [LLB/1980] got to witness a return on his investment in-person on September 26 when he visited and officially opened the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic. Vickar's gift to the Faculty of Law has transformed a dingy basement storage room into a state-of-the-art experiential learning space for law students to engage in the hands-on practice of business law.

While the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic has existed as a for-credit course taken by students at the Faculty of Law since 2014, the Clinic has not had until now its own dedicated office space.

"Clinical learning is at the heart of our law school's mission, and the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic

is a testament to the significance of this approach," said Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of the Faculty of Law. "This state-of-the-art facility has reshaped a once neglected space into an invaluable hub for experiential education. We extend our deepest appreciation to Mr. Vickar for his unwavering commitment to advancing clinical learning. The clinic equips our students with hands-on, practical experiences, ensuring they are well-prepared for the challenges of legal practice. It is an investment in the future of legal professionals, enhancing their skill sets and nurturing the qualities that will define their success in practice."

"Lawyers practice law in law firms, not classrooms," said Clinic instructor Nick Slonosky, a 1979 graduate of Robson Hall. "During the pandemic, we were forced to reimagine the Clinic and students met clients online using video conferencing technology and the power of the internet which is exactly what lawyers were doing in practice. Now that we are back to life in-person, with thanks to Kerry Vickar, we have an actual teaching law firm space right in the law school where students can learn by doing just as if they were in a law firm. This gives students the opportunity to learn far more about practicing law than ever before and will make them even better prepared for the real world when they graduate."



Vickar tries out the sound-proof conference booth that students will use to communicate with clients. Photo by Mike Latschislaw.

While visiting the space, Vickar was impressed with how the former storage area had been reimagined into a welcoming, well-lit, professional office environment complete with large and small conference rooms, two offices, an area containing six work station cubicles with locked, secure filing cabinets, and an open lounge area for brainstorming. Additionally, two state-of-the-art sound-proof meeting booths line one wall where

students can engage in confidential virtual meetings with clients.

After touring the Clinic, Vickar joined 22 students currently enrolled in this year's business law externship course, in the Faculty Lounge for lunch. Several Faculty of Law alumni also joined the group and shared stories about how their training at the Clinic helped prepare them for legal practice.

Alexandra Broggy [BA/2016; BSc/2022; JD/2022] is now an associate at Fillmore Riley LLP's business law practice, working on the firm's commercial team. Having participated in the Clinic when it was offered in the fall term of 2021, Broggy said it was "really the only practical transactional experience I had received in all of law school."

Broggy, who had competed in the Laskin Administrative/Constitutional Moot, the Robson Hall Negotiation Competition, the subsequent Canadian National Negotiation Competition, and the Davies Corporate/Securities Moot, found that those experiences combined with her clinical experience "helped me to start my legal career and start articling with such an increased level of confidence than I think a lot of my peers had."

Further, Broggy pointed out that because the Clinic uses Clio, a cloud-based legal practice management software used by many professional law firms and by the current articling student Practice Readiness Education Program (PREP), she and her cohort were able to start their articles already familiar with the software.



Vickar stands at the centre of the new re-imagined clinical space he was instrumental in creating. Photo by Mike Latschislaw.

Samantha Harvey [BA/2020; JD/2023] is now an articling student at Fillmore Riley LLP and was the Class of 2023 University of Manitoba Gold Medalist for Law. She was a student in the 2022-2023 cohort, and said after participating in the Clinic she knew this was exactly what she wanted to do. Harvey was impressed with the diverse clients students had the opportunity of working with. Some clients knew what they wanted but others needed more advice, she



Dean Richard Jochelson formally introduces L. Kerry Vickar to business clinic law students and alumni. Photo by Mike Latschislaw.

observed. “It was an amazing experience and definitely the most practical thing I’d ever done in law school.

Three second-year students who worked for the Clinic throughout the summer, from May to the end of August, 2023, also reported on their intensive experiences. Emily Palmer, Lisa Haydey and Cassandra Taverner each brought unique backgrounds to the job. Haydey holds a BA and a Master of Physiotherapy degree from the University of Manitoba and already had experience working with physio clients. Palmer completed a BA from the University of Manitoba and a Master of Journalism degree from the University of British Columbia before starting law school. Taverner, who holds a BSc in Cell, Molecular and Developmental Biology from the University of Manitoba, had taken some time to work as a ceramicist prior to starting at Robson Hall.

Haydey noted how their knowledge of corporate law had grown exponentially over the summer, when fresh out of their first year of law school, they were called upon to help a client to incorporate a not-for-profit organization from start to finish. The students filled out forms, drafted Articles of Incorporation, by-laws, minute books, and discussed with the client how to organize their corporation. “It’s amazing to think back on it now because we had just finished our first year of law school, we had not taken a corporations class, I’m not sure we all knew what a corporation was at the time, and within four months, we are incorporating not-for-profits, for-profit businesses, federally, provincially,

it’s incredible,” said Haydey. “Everything we learned was so directly applicable to serving, to helping our community.”

“Working at the Clinic didn’t just prepare us in terms of substantive law or how to be lawyers. It taught us about the kind of lawyers and professionals that we want to be.”

The visit ended with a question and answer session with current business law clinic students asking Vickar questions about his business life experiences. Having the opportunity to talk to him in this manner made a big impact.

Vickar encouraged this next generation of business law problem-solvers to be true to themselves and follow their hearts in whatever they learn and do in life after law school.

“Ensuring that today’s law students get hands-on practical experience was one of my top motivations when making this gift” said Vickar. “While reminiscing about my own law school days with former Dean and UM Chancellor Emeritus Harvey Sexter, he asked me “What didn’t you learn in law school?” I immediately thought of my inexperience in working with clients and drafting agreements and documents for them and sincerely wished I had those experiences under my belt before I graduated. So it’s important to me to ensure that law students can now get that critical experience before they get out there into the real world.” ■

While visiting the space, Vickar was impressed with how the former storage area had been reimaged...

Getting ready to Help Northern Communities

Business Law Clinic Students Attend the 51st Northern Association of Community Councils Annual General Assembly and Trade Show

by Kassandra Taverner (2L)



(L-R): Emily Palmer (2L), Morgan McCurdy, Kassandra Taverner (2L), Lisa Haydey (2L).

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on October 3, 2023)

On August 22 and 23, law students from the [L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic](#) attended the 51st Northern Association of Community Councils (NACC) Annual General Assembly and Trade Show at Canad Inns Destination Centre Polo Park in Winnipeg. The NACC Annual General Assembly welcomed representatives from Northern Manitoba communities and others who support providing accessible services and resources to people living in Northern Manitoba.

NACC is a not-for-profit and CRA-registered charity representing 48 northern and remote community councils. It works for member communities to ensure that physical, social, and economic development in Northern communities remains a priority for government. NACC also works to share information on sustainability of natural resources and strengthens community connections to promote self-sufficiency in Northern Manitoba.

Over the two days, the students had the opportunity to present at the Annual General Assembly. Incoming 2L students Kassandra Taverner, Lisa Haydey, and Emily Palmer shared the purpose behind the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic and discussed the free legal resources available to serve all of Manitoba, including

those in the North, who do not have access to a lawyer and cannot afford legal services.

The students spoke about their backgrounds, and shared an impactful story about a particular client, “Building Bridges for Newcomers Inc.,” whose work in assisting newcomers to Canada has been a particular inspiration to the Business Law Clinic students and reinforced the importance of helping others and the need for pro bono legal services.

The students also announced the Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts – which will provide

free legal services for artists and arts organizations, including those in Northern Manitoba.

Many people living in urban areas take many things for granted, such as accessible and affordable food options, healthcare, and education. But for people living in the Northern and remote areas of Manitoba, access can be a major and complex challenge, especially in the winter.

Morgan McCurdy, the Northern Facilitator for [Food Matters Manitoba](#), made an impact on the students with her dedication and clarity of purpose. She recently graduated from the University of Winnipeg with a degree in Human Rights and is passionate about addressing food insecurity in Northern Manitoba.

Food Matters Manitoba is partnering with northern communities and providing “resources such as equipment and materials so that they can get out on the land to harvest (hunt, fish, trap, and gather) and feed their communities. Traditional harvesting draws on the strength, experience, knowledge, and largely unbroken traditions of Indigenous community members to drive the local food system.”


The students learned more about food insecurity facing Manitobans, and how northern and remote

communities in Manitoba are more severely impacted due to things like high food prices and the long distances that food and people must travel to get to a store. More than 60% of Indigenous people living on reserve in Northern Manitoba are food insecure, compared to 14.4% of Manitobans who are food insecure. Through its vital work, Food Matters Manitoba is assisting communities in overcoming these challenges. You can find out more by visiting Food Matters Manitoba [website](#).

The students were also moved by their conversations with Kevin Walker (executive director) and Angela Klassen from the [Bear Clan Patrol](#). They described the importance of the Bear Clan Patrol's initiative and why the organization is personally meaningful to them. According to their official website, "[the Patrol] came about as a result of the ongoing need to assume [their] traditional responsibility to provide security to [their] aboriginal community. Given that the Aboriginal population in Winnipeg is anywhere from 60,000 to 80,000, and is heavily concentrated in certain inner-city neighbourhoods, it was felt that the community must organize to keep the peace and to assist community members. The concept behind the patrol, then, is community people working with the community to provide personal security in the inner city in a non-threatening, non-violent, and supportive way."

Emily Palmer talked about her takeaways from hearing Kevin and Angela's powerful and touching stories, "There is great power in treating others well and small acts of kindness can make profound differences in the lives of others. Lisa, Kassie, and I are looking forward to learning more by attending a Bear Clan Patrol walk sometime very soon to see firsthand the important work that Bear Clan Patrol does every day to help others in need in the community!"

The students also met Shelley Napier and Paul Kentziger from [Napier Emergency Consulting](#) (NEC). They assist communities and organizations in building plans and programs to manage emergency events. Shelley and Paul are not only reflecting on past disasters and emergencies, but are also looking toward the future to prepare for bigger risks for people in Manitoba and across Canada. ■



They described the importance of the Bear Clan Patrol's initiative and why the organization is personally meaningful to them.

Cultivating Creativity and Commerce

Business Law Clinic Students Present at Balmoral Hall

by **Ashley Slagerman (3L)**

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on April 9, 2024)

In a dynamic collaboration between the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic and Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts, four third-year law students —Ashley Slagerman, Kaylee Furber, Jamie Robertson, and Rebecca Penner from the Faculty of Law —enriched their final year of Law School by sharing as well as enriching the Grade 9-10 Balmoral Hall Venture Development and Law classes at Balmoral Hall, on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, with an engaging and informative presentation covering business law basics.

The Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts, a pioneering initiative launched in 2023, stands as Manitoba’s sole clinic dedicated to offering free legal guidance tailored explicitly for artists and arts organizations. Kaylee Furber had her second opportunity to speak to students, following her initial presentation on copyright to the Desautels Faculty of Music earlier this Winter Term. Reflecting on these experiences she said, “It’s wonderful to share what we’ve learned about

intellectual property from the Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts with so many young creatives in Manitoba. We hope these presentations are insightful and inspiring, especially for the young women at Balmoral Hall considering careers in this field”.

At the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic, the four students have worked for various pro bono clients on a wide array of business law matters such as drafting contracts and providing information on incorporation as well as other corporate and commercial matters for small businesses, start-up, entrepreneurs, family businesses and non-profit clients that do not have a lawyer and cannot afford legal assistance.

Jamie Robertson shared her thoughts on sharing this information with the high school students, “We were so excited to share some of the knowledge we have learned through our work at the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic with the Balmoral Hall students. The differences between sole proprietorships, partnerships and corporations, how to register a business name and basic tax information is all important knowledge to be shared, especially with the Venture Development



and Law classes. We all feel fortunate to have had the opportunity through the Clinic to present to such bright and enthusiastic students. We hope the presentation inspired some of the students to pursue a legal career in the future!”

Reflecting on the experience, the Balmoral Hall Venture Development teacher, Kirstan Osborne stated that it was an inspiring experience to her students. Ashley Slagerman said the law students felt the same way as “after three years of law school, it’s exciting to get outside of the classroom and see young girls interested in entrepreneurship and the law, and visiting Balmoral Hall served as a delightful reminder of that enthusiasm as we go forward into articling.”


Having been mentored throughout the year by their two supervising lawyers, Nick Slonosky and Yvan Larocque, in both the Business Law Clinic and Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts, these law students seized the opportunity to impart the knowledge they’ve gained to the next generation of entrepreneurs. “It was very fulfilling to be able to share some of our learning and experiences with young women” said Rebecca Penner.

The presentation delved into crucial topics spanning business structures, intellectual property, and taxation—essential pillars for budding entrepreneurs, creatives, and businesses alike.

As a token of gratitude, each Balmoral Hall student received a UM Faculty of Law keychain, symbolizing their ongoing journey towards success.

Looking ahead, the students eagerly anticipate the continued growth and impact of both the Business Law Clinic and Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts in nurturing and supporting aspiring artists and entrepreneurs alike.

For those interested in supporting the next generation of emerging entrepreneurs please check out the [Balmoral Hall Makers Market](#). Buy local for your gift ideas and shopping needs. ■



Reflecting on these experiences she said, “It’s wonderful to share what we’ve learned about intellectual property from the Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts with so many young creatives in Manitoba.

Faculty of Law launches new Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts

Law Students help artists and creatives in Manitoba

by **Emily Palmer (2L)**

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on November 3, 2023)

The University of Manitoba Faculty of Law has launched a new [Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts](#). The Clinic offers free legal advice and information specifically designed for artists, creatives, and arts and cultural organizations in Manitoba, including Northern communities, who do not have a lawyer or cannot afford legal assistance. Clients can receive information pertaining to contracts, intellectual property, sale of goods, information on business structures, technology, and more.

The Clinic is operated by law students at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law, who provide legal help under the supervision of experienced lawyers. This year, there are a total of 25 students participating in the Clinic.

Creatives, artists, makers, and arts organizations can apply to receive free legal services by filling out the Clinic's secure online [intake form here](#).

Artists, creatives, arts and cultural organizations in Manitoba are an underserved and underrepresented community requiring greater access to legal services to support themselves and their creative aspirations.

According to the [2020 Needs Assessment Report](#) by the National Network of Legal Clinics for the Arts, 94 per cent of artists found that they face unique legal needs, 90 per cent of those in the arts communities found inadequate access to legal supports, and just over 80 per cent of arts organizations did not have the necessary access to legal resources to support their own members.

Manitoba has a significant arts sector. According to recent 2023 [Hill Strategies report conducted for the Manitoba Arts Council](#) based on the 2021 census there are 5,200 professional artists in Manitoba. Manitoba has the highest proportion of Indigenous artists among the provinces. In Manitoba, one in every 140 workers is an artist. Over one-half of artists in Manitoba are women, and 63 percent of all Manitoba artists are self-employed. Median personal income is 42% lower than other Manitoba workers. The median employment

income of Manitoba artists was just \$10,100 in 2020, which is about one-quarter of the median employment income of all Manitoba workers (\$38,400).

At the same time, in Manitoba, there are a small number of lawyers who practice intellectual property and who have a focus on the intersecting streams of law and art. Hence, the necessity to form an arts clinic that provides tailored services is essential for our province—a geographical arena with a thriving arts industry.

[John Myers \[JD/1990\]](#), a Partner at [Taylor McCaffrey LLP](#), has a wealth of experience supporting the arts in Canada. He emphasizes the importance of the required expertise in providing legal information to artists and creatives.

“In my experience, ‘creatives’ need a basic understanding of how to protect their works through the use of copyright registrations, trademarks, patents, non-disclosure agreements, and understanding the role of Collective Rights Societies,” says Myers.

“And then they need an understanding of how to commercialize what they have created if that is the route they want to pursue.”

The purpose behind developing a clinic to help those in the arts community is to help address this gap. According to Myers, the relationship between the arts community and the law is not a new one.

“Having a new Legal Clinic for the Arts is a way to fulfill an unmet need. Members of the private bar have been providing both pro bono and paid services to the arts community dealing with specific issues and serving on Arts Boards for decades,” says Myers. “Having a clinic devoted to serving members of the Arts Community will be very helpful.”

Recently, the Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts shared its [new website](#) with local arts communities. The website showcases the Clinic's mission, vision, and purpose, along with the fabulous logo created by one of Manitoba's award-winning graphic artists, [Roberta Landreth](#).

In creating the logo, Roberta shared her inspiration for the symbol representing the Clinic.



“A visual identity and logo are outward expressions of the personality and energy of the brand they represent. Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Art’s mission is to grow and champion sustainable and successful careers in the arts, which is of mutual benefit to the students studying law at the University of Manitoba,” says Landreth.

The logo showcases the reciprocal relationship between students studying law and the creatives who exist in Manitoba. According to Landreth, this is displayed in the colours and the shape of the logo.

“It shows the two interacting to create a wheel, a dynamic, and mutually beneficial relationship that serves both groups.”

An artist herself, Landreth emphasizes the great need for free legal assistance to artists and creators in the province.

“As an artist, having access to an individual who understands law and can answer questions with solid legal advice is invaluable. I know that for musicians, authors, and other creatives, navigating contracts and other legal documents can feel overwhelming. Having someone sort through these things without the hefty price tag is a welcome service.”

Kara Joseph [BMus/2019], Trainings Program Manager at **Creative Manitoba**, highlights the reality of artists in navigating the legal system, especially in relation to their creative projects and works.

“As self-employed and contract workers, artists are often left without the necessary supports and resources to ensure stability and security in their work. The creative industry has many unique facets that make working in the arts exciting, but also challenging in many ways.”

Joseph emphasizes the necessity for artists to understand how to exercise their own individual rights, which is an issue that the Clinic aims to address.

“Artists across Manitoba would benefit greatly from legal advice and support, but they lack the resources to access them. Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts breaks

down this major barrier. This initiative will support artists, educating them on a myriad of legal issues that will only help these individuals better advocate for themselves and their work,” says Joseph.

Art in Manitoba is everywhere. It is abundant in all pockets of the province and the gap in access to legal assistance to arts communities is evident. These communities have sustained tremendous negative impact, especially during and after the global pandemic, according to **Brendan McKeen [BMus/2008]**, Chairperson of the **Manitobans for the Arts**.


“The pandemic exposed how vulnerable independent artists are across Canada. The simple act of asking legal questions will inform artists of their rights and protections. This will lead to a healthier sector while the community will reap the benefits,” says McKeen.

Randy Joynt, Executive Director of the **Manitoba Arts Council** shares his insight towards the new Arts Clinic initiative.

“The Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts will be an indispensable resource for the arts and culture sector in Manitoba. Having a clinic dedicated to providing free legal information to artists, cultural workers, and arts/cultural organizations will be a great help in navigating the often complex framework of doing business in the arts,” says Joynt.

The Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts provides free legal resources to artists and makers in all of Manitoba, including Northern Manitoba. In Northern Manitoba alone, there is an abundance of artists and makers in need of support and legal assistance.

According to the 2022 survey “**Artists and Arts Organizations in Northern Manitoba: A Baseline Study**,” there were a total of 63 First Nations and 5 linguistic groups who identified as artists in the North. 282 artists were identified across Northern Manitoba and across various arts and creative disciplines. A total of 27 arts organizations with 123 employees were devoted to a form of artistic work. 75 per cent of this population identified as Indigenous.



In terms of the type of arts disciplines that were reported, 76 per cent engaged in visual arts and crafts, 19 per cent engaged in music, and 12 per cent performed literature and writing.

The study also found that relatively few artists and makers earn an income from their work. Most artists and creatives see their work in the form of a hobby (66 per cent) while only a small amount create works as a business.

Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba, emphasized the impact of providing legal services to Indigenous communities in the province.

“I firmly believe that the establishment of the Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts marks a pivotal moment in our ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of Truth and Reconciliation with Indigenous communities, while also recognizing the intrinsic value of the arts in our society,” says Jochelson. “This initiative not only signifies our dedication to supporting and empowering artists and cultural workers but also aligns with the principles of equity and justice.”

Recently, a focus on providing support to arts and culture communities has been initiated by groups in Northern Manitoba eager to emphasize and connect hubs of creatives in Northern Manitoba and provide common supports to creatives in northern communities.

Crystal Kolt O.M., [BMus/1984] Director of Culture and Community Initiatives for the City of Flin Flon, emphasized the great need for free legal services especially to those who reside in Northern Manitoba.

“Having lived in Northern Manitoba for over 25 years I have seen first-hand the extraordinary talent of creatives living North of the 54th parallel. I have also noted the lack or limited resources available to support our northern arts and cultural community,” says Kolt.

“Free legal services provided by the Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts will be a game changer for both the **imagiNorthern** project and all of members in the Northern Manitoban arts and cultural sector that are seeking the tools and supports to further develop their professional careers and ambitions.”

Joy Loewen, Chief Executive Officer of **National Screen Institute** headquartered in Winnipeg, shared her hope towards the Clinic’s impact and its anticipated mark on the creative community in the province.

“As someone with 30 years experience working with media screen professionals to develop stories for the screen, I know the struggles creators face understanding contracts, knowing what agreements are needed and negotiating rights. Having access to legal advice through a pro bono clinic is a service many in our community will find useful, valuable, and affordable.”

When asked what she hopes the Clinic can achieve, Loewen emphasized the Clinic’s impact to influence more artists to lean into their creative works and to generate more creativity in our communities.

“I’m hopeful Manitoba artists will feel more confident to create and distribute their art knowing their rights are protected. I’d take it a step further and hope that the number of artists across the province will increase because the services the clinic provides allows more artists to be compensated as professionals and enjoy full time careers doing work that love,” says Loewen.

The Clinic is most certainly a step closer to providing access to justice for certain groups in our communities, but it is also an opportunity for law students to receive practical experience.

Kassandra Taverner [BSc/2020; JD Candidate 2025], artist and second-year law student at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law, expressed her excitement and described how this initiative can benefit both the arts community and law students.

“This clinic is at the intersection of two of my passions and I couldn’t be more delighted to be part of the initiative. As an artist myself, I recognize and have experienced the unmet legal needs of artists,” says Taverner.

“Most artists do not know how to tackle the legal side of being an artist and cannot afford a lawyer. I believe this initiative can help a lot of people answer important legal questions, and much more. At the same time, law students like myself, will gain invaluable practical legal experiential learning.”

The Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts is generously funded by the Manitoba Law Foundation that provided a small project grant to get the Clinic started in its inaugural year. The Manitoba Legal Clinic for the Arts invites members of the Manitoba Bar to join in on this exciting initiative. Practicing lawyers interested in the Arts and eager to work with law students to serve Manitoba's arts community, may visit the Clinic website and fill out a volunteer intake form or [click here](#) to get involved in helping artists, creatives, arts and cultural organizations.

“As someone with 30 years experience working with media screen professionals to develop stories for the screen, I know the struggles creators face....”

Legal Help Centre



LEGAL HELP CENTRE

The Legal Help Centre (LHC) course serves as a bridge between the academic study of law and practical legal application. Located in a downtown legal clinic, the LHC offers legal and social service information, along with summary legal advice. Students have the opportunity to meet with clients and deal with real-life issues, providing short-term summary advice, information, and referrals, and drafting documents. Students also collaborate with peers from social work, criminal justice, and conflict resolution disciplines. This interdisciplinary collaboration provides resources,

perspectives, and experiences that enhance the students' ability to understand and resolve client challenges effectively.

The University of Manitoba takes immense pride in its ongoing partnership with the Legal Health Centre (LHC), a pillar of support and access to justice since its inception in 2011. As we navigate ongoing challenges, including the global pandemic, we reflect on the enduring impact and milestones of such collaborations. The below 2021 article commemorates the LHC's 10th anniversary, offers valuable insight into the workings of the Centre during unprecedented times, and reinforces the importance of our sustained commitment to the LHC's mission. *(Note: some staff changes have taken place since this story was published, therefore edits have been made to reflect this.)* ■

Legal Help Centre unites law students, alumni for common goals

Ten years of service to the community, pro bono services needed more than ever

by **Christine Mazur**

(Originally published in **UM Today** on March 1, 2021)

As Winnipeg's Legal Help Centre celebrates its 10th year, students and alumni of the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law, and members of the broader legal community have continued to work together throughout the pandemic to deliver critical legal services through virtual means to Manitobans.

Since 2011, the Legal Help Centre (the Centre) has connected individuals with social, economic and legal issues to appropriate services. The not-for-profit charity serves as a training ground for students who interact directly with clients, learning practical skills necessary for daily legal practice, with supervisory help from two staff lawyers plus a community of volunteer practicing lawyers.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The love, patience, kindness, and encouragement you always showed me will be forever appreciated. My words alone can never express my appreciation for everything you have done... And I also wish you guys nothing but a win in your studies. You will make GREAT lawyers."

– **Legal Help Centre Client**

The Centre arose out of the **United Nations Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor** and its 2008 report, "Making the Law Work for Everyone," according to **Paula Hamilton [LL.B./94]**, former Executive Director of the Centre. Founders included various legal professionals, scholars from the University of Winnipeg and University of Manitoba and community members who identified gaps in providing access to justice for disadvantaged communities. Hamilton said, "The idea was to involve not just law school students, but to create an interdisciplinary model, because we recognize that legal problems often intersect with social and economic issues. They are complex issues that aren't confined to the courtroom," she said.

One of the main objectives, said Hamilton, was to address gaps in services which involved collaboration

with other legal and community organizations to meet community needs. A key program has always been the in-person drop-in clinic that helps thousands annually, which, since the start of the pandemic, has successfully adapted to an online, virtual format.

The Centre also develops workshop presentations in response to common client questions to teach certain procedural matters, such as how to file a small claim, collect on a judgment or administer an estate.

Family law questions, however, are seen most frequently. In the event of a family breakdown, for example, a student often guides the client through the process, doing behind the scenes work such as drafting court documents, while the client remains on record as a self-represented litigant. The goal is to empower clients to handle their matter and appear in court for themselves, becoming better informed of their rights, more aware of the process, better prepared and more capable when they do so.

LEARNING BY DOING

"Students are looking for ways to broaden their academic education. There's nothing that helps you become a lawyer and article better than dealing with real people in real situations... Until you actually sit down with an individual and try to ask them questions and listen to their story, it's just all theory."

– **Paula Hamilton [LL.B./94], Former Executive Director, Legal Help Centre**



Currently, the [Legal Help Centre Externship](#) is a 12-credit, eight-month clinical experience open to a maximum of 10 students who devote a minimum of 14 hours each week for 12 consecutive weeks per term and get the chance to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned in the classroom. Students in any year not enrolled in the course can also sign up to be volunteers, and many do.

Currently, two full-time staff lawyers supervise the students, and a cadre of approximately 75 volunteer lawyers help with the mentoring process. Resources and experience are always on hand to ensure that the students are properly learning the practice of law while helping clients.



Nadia Rumore, former Legal Help Centre, Senior Staff Lawyer.

Staff and volunteers have the opportunity to influence students' attitudes and approaches beyond teaching hands-on skills. "We want students to learn listening skills and to have empathy towards the clients and their situations, and to develop the ability to collaborate with other disciplines – this is what it takes to help people solve complicated, multi-faceted problems in the real world," stated **Nadia Rumore, former Senior Staff Lawyer [LL.B./05]**.

These skills translate to all practice areas, Rumore said, regardless of where students go on to work. Many students end up at private law firms, in-house legal departments or with government, but their experiences at the Centre will have helped develop their awareness of access to justice issues and marginalized people that they might never otherwise have encountered.

THEORY AND PRACTICE

"It stands out among my learning experiences as highly positive, challenging, and rewarding."

– **Lauren Hidalgo, Legal Help Centre Externship student**

Third-year law student **Zara Kadhim** first heard about the Centre during her second year from classmates who had taken the Externship and told her it was great exposure to applied learning "which is something we want more of in law school," Kadhim said, "because there is a focus on theory. When I heard what was offered, it was really a selling point for me."

Lauren Hidalgo, a third-year student who started as a volunteer and then worked as a summer student, is now enrolled in the Externship program. Hidalgo said the experience was an instrumental part of her legal education where she applied classroom learning to a clinical setting. "I sharpened my skills in client management, client interviewing, and in explaining the law in plain language," she said.

ALUMNI GIVING BACK

With only two staff lawyers on hand, volunteer lawyers are really appreciated, said former Staff Lawyer, **Douglas Ripley [JD/11]**. While Rumore has extensive experience in Family Law, Ripley's background is in Civil Litigation. "The issues our clients face are unpredictable and often multi-dimensional. The expertise provided by our team of volunteers ensures that our clients' circumstances are thoroughly addressed," said Ripley.

During pre-pandemic drop-ins, at least two volunteer lawyers would always be present in the back room ready to answer any questions while the students did all the interacting with clients. "Volunteer participation provides a great opportunity for us as an organization to benefit from other resources and expertise," said Ripley, "and it's a chance for students to engage with other lawyers in the legal community."

A GRADUATE'S STORY

Wolseley Law's founding lawyer **Gerrit Theule [JD/15]** has been involved with the Centre since first starting law school, and has witnessed the impact the service has had on improving access to justice, and broadening the knowledge and experiences of both students and practicing professionals in the legal community.

“When I retired from the bench after many years as a Judge, I wanted to stay connected to the profession of law and thereby continue to make a contribution to members of the public who find themselves in need of legal assistance or advice. The Legal Help Centre, with its dedicated staff and volunteer lawyers, is an effective and professional vehicle to accomplish these goals in the public interest, and I am very pleased to be a long serving member of its Board of Directors.”

– **The Honourable Richard J. Scott [B.A./59, LL.B./63]**



Douglas Ripley, former Legal Help Centre Staff Lawyer.

Besides networking with other community lawyers, Rumore added, lawyers get a chance to do pro bono work with clients who might never otherwise come to their firms for help. “It allows them to give back,” she said, “and they recognize the value in mentoring students.”

Lawyers donate their time knowing the benefits, said Rumore. “They love it,” she said, “because the students are dedicated to both their education and the community. The volunteer lawyers enjoy imparting their knowledge, but they also like to see the future of the profession.”

“There’s always going to be a need for lawyers within the community, But the idea that the practice of law was changing, and that there needs to be a greater emphasis on supporting organizations like the Legal Help Centre in delivering real grass-roots access to justice by those in private practice across the board – that was something that the Centre opened my eyes to in a huge way.”

– **Gerrit Theule [JD/15]**

On a broad scale, Theule said the Centre opened his eyes to the big picture of legal practice, but he also learned the granular skills of how to be a lawyer. “It’s often said that law school doesn’t teach you how to be a lawyer, right? It teaches you a whole bunch of things, but it doesn’t actually teach you how to be a lawyer. This was an opportunity for me from first year to learn some of the skills that were going to be necessary.”

Today at Wolseley Law, three of the firm’s seven lawyers articulated at the Centre, and almost all volunteer there on a regular basis. The firm just hired its first articling student who will start in the spring of 2021, and Theule confirmed that taking part in the Centre will be a part of their learning experience. “Because we came from the Legal Help Centre, [it] really formed the ethos of what we’re doing here,” Theule said.

OPERATING UNDER PANDEMIC CONDITIONS

“Clients have told me that they have only been able to access help because it was made available virtually. The format has opened the door to more Manitobans in rural or remote communities.”

– **David Charach, Legal Help Centre Externship student**

Despite the pandemic shutting down the Centre’s physical office and face-to-face operations, staff, students and volunteer lawyers continued to provide services. The important problem solving continues to take place – albeit virtually. “The use of the remote technology is teaching the students how to communicate effectively, which can be difficult when you’re not actually sitting across from a person but it’s also giving the Centre the opportunity to extend its service beyond Winnipeg,” said David Asper, former Acting Dean of Law.

Hamilton sees the advantages, but is careful to note that some clients without regular or reliable access to a computer or telephone could find virtual service challenging. “We find that meeting in person is often the best way to show that someone is caring and listening to your story or to develop trust,” she said. “However we are learning from the pandemic and strive towards service that is accessible and meaningful in a variety of ways.”

The Centre is still busy, Hamilton observed, because life hasn’t stopped during COVID. “People still need help navigating a family breakdown or dealing with the loss of employment, a tenancy concern, or a debt issue. These kinds of concerns have become more significant, because a lot of people have lost their jobs or are experiencing additional financial hardship, stress and uncertainty,” she said.

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

From his involvement with the Centre’s Board and this year of working for the Faculty as Acting Dean, Asper is especially struck by the many benefits arising from the way the Centre brings law students and alumni together to work towards a common goal. “I think it’s really important that our law school community stay as connected as possible,” he said, “not just for current students, but for alumni as well. Because we’ve got this big problem of access to justice, and the legal profession is expected to be a big contributor to how we try to address that.

“One of the things about being a lawyer,” he continued, “is that we’ve got to have a sense of corporate or social responsibility, and to give back to our communities, and this is a fantastic way to do it. Not only for the benefit of the community, but for our community to continue to build and strengthen bonds with each other.” ■

“The more that we know each other and find ways to collaborate with each other, such as on access to justice issues where we’re not adversaries, but we’re colleagues actually trying to work together to improve a community problem, I think that probably helps the system overall to work better because it takes down barriers that might exist between among people who don’t know each other—older and younger alumni. I think that’s a very important aspect that sometimes gets overlooked.”

– **Former Acting Dean David Asper, Q.C.**

Law Makers program connects Indigenous high school and UM students



UM law student Melinda Moch

by UM Today Staff

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on April 5, 2022)

What to do after high school is a daunting decision for any young person.

The idea of post-secondary education had not even crossed high school student D'Andra (Dia) Scherban's mind before participating in the new Law Makers program at Maples Collegiate. But their experience working with mentors from the University of Manitoba's (UM) [Faculty of Law](#) is starting to shift that thought process to what is possible.

"Seeing the work of the law students interests me and is kind of pushing me towards that (post-secondary education)," says Scherban.

A UM partnership with the Seven Oaks School Division and Wayfinders program, Law Makers combines social justice education with mentorship, linking Indigenous UM law students with high school learners in the division. Not only does the program support students in earning a high school credit, but it also creates their first connection with post-secondary through university credit.

"[I was originally interested] because of the credit, but after being in the class, it's really interesting learning about my own culture and how it ties to law," says Scherban.

First-year Faculty of Law student Melinda Moch is one of the influential mentors meeting with Scherban and their classmates weekly. The goal is to show the students there are many paths after high school that can make a difference in their communities.

The program helps students to see themselves in their mentors and feel supported to take that next step to post-secondary, whether in law or not. "To me, it does not matter what course they pursue; no matter what they do, they are going to be stronger, more vocal advocates for Indigenous rights," says Moch.

As a member of the Métis Nation, Moch learned a love of the land from her mother at a young age and hopes to impart that knowledge to the students she mentors through land rights teachings. She already sees their understanding of and interest in the connections between the social justice teachings and the current events faced by Indigenous nations across the country.

"Seeing how the [students] are connecting aspects

of the law they are learning about with real-world examples and asking such smart questions is so inspiring,” Moch remarks, noting she is as inspired by the students as they are by their mentors.

Though it’s only the first year of the program, students are already showing strong interest in social justice, which Moch is confident will lead them to success in whatever they pursue.

“I foresee some of these students going many distances, [especially] the way their minds are open to the idea of anything and that, to me, is a huge prospect as well – that they, through Law Makers, will get the idea that they can become anything.” Moch has already confirmed she is planning to participate as a mentor again next year, and for as long as the program exists.

The expansion of this program to involve more participants and branch out into different fields will now be much more possible, thanks to UM’s new partnership with the [Mastercard Foundation’s EleV program](#), which includes \$16.1 million to support this work.

“The timing of this partnership and the generosity of the Mastercard Foundation are going to have such a big impact...It allows the program to happen in a bigger, better, faster way, especially in getting all the resources and people in place,” says Christine Cyr, associate vice-president Indigenous – students, community and cultural integration at UM. “We’re all grateful for this partnership.”

With Law Makers in its early stages, plans for future educational opportunities for Indigenous high school students are already underway. Cyr’s long-term goal is to connect more and more students with Indigenous mentors who will empower them to feel comfortable to work toward any dream.

“I hope to see the Law Makers program as the first step – and many more programs like it in many different fields – so every student feels supported to pursue whatever career they want,” says Cyr, adding this is only the beginning of the program’s work to create pathways to education and ensure students know their communities are rooting for them. ■

Cochrane Saxberg Indigenous Community Legal Clinic



The Cochrane Saxberg Indigenous Community Legal Clinic (ICLC) offers students a range of opportunities, including interviewing clients, providing counsel, developing and managing client files, and conducting qualitative research. Working with supervising lawyers, students are engaged in pro-bono work for a variety of community-based organizations, such as the Seven Oaks school division. The course incorporates Indigenous pedagogies, including storytelling and talking circles. Along with the study of scholarly publications addressing decolonization and Indigenous legal orders, students learn how to integrate these principles into the practice of law. ■

Manitoba Law Reform Commission

The Manitoba Law Reform Commission (MLRC) is an independent agency that aims to improve, modernize, and reform the law and administration of justice in Manitoba. The Commission conducts research and consultations, and makes formal recommendations for law reform to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General. Under the supervision of MLRC Legal counsel, students assist with legal research and writing concerning ongoing Commission projects, prepare for and attend Commission meetings and public engagement events, and undertake a small research project addressing a legal issue of the intern’s choice. Working with the Commission, students better understand the relationship between law reform initiatives and the lived experiences of the wider community. ■

Robson Crim Research and Practice Experience

The Robson Crim Externship offers students a unique opportunity to work in a digital legal context, gaining professional knowledge and skills pertinent to criminal law and legal practices through digital communications. Throughout the course, students participate in various forms of online public education, curating content useful to both practicing lawyers and members of the public facing access to justice issues and searching for relevant criminal law educational materials. Students are assigned projects where they conduct direct research to address specific relevant questions. Tasks include writing memoranda, analyzing research findings, reviewing case law, interpreting legal data, overseeing studies under supervision, and other supporting activities. ■

Women's Legal Education and Action Fund



The Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) is a national charitable organization that works towards ensuring that the law guarantees substantive equality for women, girls, trans, and non-binary people through litigation, law reform, and public education. Students have the opportunity to learn about advancing substantive gender equality rights through litigation, law reform, and education. In this remote position, students are involved in legal and academic research and case monitoring under the supervision of LEAF's legal team. Students may prepare legal memos and advocacy statements, assist in administrative tasks, attend committee meetings, and support LEAF's ongoing long-term projects. ■

Public Interest Law Centre



The Public Interest Law Centre (PILC) represents groups and individuals on cases involving issues that affect the environment, human rights, indigenous people, consumers and low-income persons. Students at PILC work under the supervision of staff lawyers who conduct periodic file reviews, monitor workloads and serve as resources to answer questions. As part of a hands-on approach, students conduct interviews, carry out research, draft memos, and respond to applications for PILC services. Student duties also include assisting in drafting case development plans, legal filings and arguments, and helping counsel both in court and before administrative tribunals. This program equips students with practical public interest litigation and advocacy skills. ■

Manitoba Department of Justice Externship



The Manitoba Justice Externship places selected students within the Manitoba Department of Justice. Students will work with Assistant Deputy Ministers and their staff in the Public Safety Division (PSD), Courts, or the Crown Law Analysis and Development (CLAD) Divisions of Manitoba Justice. As part of this externship, students engage in policy and legal work surrounding issues such as police accountability, police training, information management, and Crown policies and procedures, among other governmental areas. Through this hands-on experience, students develop skills in policy development, legislative research and reform, and legal drafting. Starting in the fall of 2024, this Externship will have additional areas in which students will be able to gain experience. ■

Coming Soon: New Externships at UM

The Faculty of Law is set to introduce new externship opportunities for the 2024-2025 academic year, further enhancing the extensive range of experiential learning opportunities available to students. These include:

Mediation clinic

The Clinical Mediation Externship is a new course offered at Robson Hall designed for students aspiring to become mediators or ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) neutrals after graduation. In this course, students develop mediation skills through practical exercises. They will also learn to draft essential documents, including confidentiality agreements and mediation agreements. Additionally, students will complete various class assignments related to the field.

International Human Rights Clinic Externship

The International Human Rights Externship is a new and exciting course offered at Robson Hall that introduces students to both international human rights law and clinical practice. Students engage with various mechanisms for protecting and advancing human rights at the international, regional and domestic levels, such as the United Nations. As part of the course, students will collaborate with community partners and human rights practitioners on various projects, which may include working on research memoranda, assist with written submissions for courts, tribunals, committees, and other human rights bodies.

Prison Law and Family Law Externships at the UMCLC

The University of Manitoba Community Clinic (UMCLC) is now offering students new externship opportunities in Family Law and Prison Law. With the expansion of the clinic's services, students pursuing a Family Law externship may be involved in uncontested divorce hearings, cohabitation agreements, and custody agreements.

In May 2024, UMCLC opened a Prison Law Clinic, providing access to justice to individuals incarcerated in Manitoba, beginning with a pilot project for those serving federal sentences. The PLC offers legal education, advice, and representation to incarcerated persons to address their conditions of confinement. Given the significant overrepresentation of Indigenous people among those incarcerated in Manitoba, the PLC prioritizes the provision of services to inmates who identify as Indigenous, including supporting Indigenous inmates and their communities to create alternatives to incarceration through parole.

Kings Bench, Provincial Court and Court of Appeal Externships

Lastly, in the 2024-2025 academic year, the existing Provincial Court, Court of King's Bench and Court of Appeal Clerkships will expand to externships worth 12-credit hours. During their clerkship, students assist the Justices with research tasks and provide written memoranda to aid in trial or application preparations. Additionally, students may have the opportunity to observe portions of trials or applications for which they've contributed work. Clerkships at all three levels of court provide law students with invaluable practical experience and a deeper understanding of judicial processes. Learn more about the 20 year history of the Manitoba Court of Appeal externship in this [UM Today story](#). ■

Celebrating 20 years of the Manitoba Court of Appeal clerkship program

Collaboration between courts and law school offers invaluable student experience



Judges and their former clerks from the past 20 years of the Faculty of Law's Manitoba Court of Appeal clerkship program gathered for a reunion on May 10, 2024. Photo by Mike Latschislaw.

by **Christine Mazur**

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on June 10, 2024)

Twenty years ago, a young professor at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law approached the Dean with an idea: to ask the Manitoba Court of Appeal to take on third-year law students as clerks to gain hands-on experience in seeing how the province's top court operates. As the 20th fall term of the program approaches, the Faculty and the Court realized the impact of the program's long-lasting legacy and summoned alumni of the program from far and wide to celebrate at a luncheon held on May 10th, 2024.

Professor Darcy MacPherson had been teaching law at Robson Hall for two years in 2004, and fresh memories of his own experience clerking at the Nova Scotia courts in Halifax while a law student at Dalhousie, inspired him to approach Dean Harvey Sectar, [BComm/67, LLB/92], about starting a similar program in Manitoba. Sectar took the matter to The Honourable Justice Freda M. Steel who led the Manitoba Court of Appeal's participation in the program.

Today, with Justice Steel's retirement, The Honourable Justices Christopher Mainella and David Kroft are responsible for the program, while Elizabeth McCandless, the Faculty of Law's Director of Clinics, oversees the Clerkship Program as one of the



The Honourable Marianne Rivoalen, Chief Justice of the Manitoba Court of Appeal. Photo by Mike Latschislaw.

Externships now offered by the law school. MacPherson is still involved as a lead supervising faculty member of the Clerkship Program.

Since 2004, 68 student clerks have successfully completed the program. In 2009 – 2010, the number of clerks accepted into the program annually was increased from two to four. In 2020, the course was converted from three to six credit hours, and starting in 2024, it has been turned into an Externship lasting from September to April, garnering 12 credit hours.

At the May 10th event, remarks were given by event host, The Honourable Chief Justice Marianne Rivoalen, Justice Mainella, Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of Law, and MacPherson, who reminisced on how the idea of starting a clerkship program at Robson Hall became a reality.

“The judiciary has long played a part in legal education well before the common law was taught in universities,” said Justice Mainella in his address to the alumni attending the event. “The Court of Appeal views the coordination of the clerkship program with Robson Hall as essential to the development of high caliber lawyers on which our system of justice relies.”

Justice Mainella highlighted the theme of tradition, but also shared news of the future of the program: “I am excited to say that the clerkship program will evolve this coming fall to become a double credit externship. Law students will continue to do legal research for the Court of Appeal and also assist individual judges in their day-to-day work.



The Honourable Justice Christopher J. Mainella, Manitoba Court of Appeal. Photo by Mike Latschislaw.

“Justice Kroft and I who are responsible for the clerkship program, together with Melanie Bueckert, a researcher with the Court, would like to thank Dean Jochelson, Professor MacPherson and all of the faculty and staff at Robson Hall on behalf of all the members of the Court of Appeal for making this expansion of the clerkship program possible. We are all looking forward to it.”

“Celebrating 20 years of unparalleled partnership between the Manitoba Court of Appeal and the

University of Manitoba Faculty of Law, we reflect on the profound impact our clerkship program has had on shaping the legal minds of tomorrow,” said Jochelson. “This collaboration has provided our students with invaluable hands-on experience and a peek behind the curtain of the administration of justice. Here’s to two decades of mutual growth, learning, and excellence in legal education.”

Said MacPherson: “This took a lot of people saying ‘Yes’ to get it started, and a wonderful level of commitment from the Court to continue its success. But, it is also important to remember that the quality of the students who have come to the Court, and their ability to contribute to the work of the Court and to learn from some of the best legal minds in the Province that makes this all work.”

Bueckert, in conversation with the recently retired Honourable Justice Freda Steel and the Faculty of Law, joked about being “hard done by” since she graduated from the Faculty of Law in 2003, missing out on participating in the Clerkship Program by one



Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba. Photo by Mike Latschislaw.

year. Hired by the Court in 2006, she has acted in the capacity of supervising lawyer of the student clerks since 2007, initially with Justice Steel, and now with Justices Mainella and Kroft who have taken over from Steel as Supervising judges of the program.

Bueckert gives new students an orientation seminar on how to do research, and together with Justice Mainella, reviews all the cases scheduled for the year and decides which would be appropriate for students to assist with. “I don’t know if we could actually do the program without Melanie,” said Justice Steel, “because



Professor Darcy MacPherson, who initiated the program in 2006, was inspired by his own experiences clerking while in law school at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Photo by Mike Latschislaw.

afterwards she checks their research so that the judges know they can rely on the research and write their reasons.”

Justice Steel’s interest and dedication to the clerkship program stems from her experience in law school taking part in what was called “The Lawyering Program” taught by Professor Jack London and Hymie Weinstein. “It was the only course I ever had in law school that showed me some aspect of the real practice of law,” said Steel, who graduated from Robson Hall in 1975 before obtaining an LLM from Harvard Law School. “When I came back to be a professor at the Faculty of Law, [...] I taught a course called intensive family law, which is a course where, in addition to teaching family law, the students actually worked on real cases, under the supervision of family law lawyers.”

“When I was given the opportunity to supervise third-year students in this context, I grabbed it, because I understood how valuable a program like this could be not only for the students, but for the judges as well. Because the interaction between us gives them a window into what judging is really like and how judges make decisions. Having these young, eager students, asking us questions is just wonderful.”
 – The Honourable Justice Freda Steel

Steel confirmed that the program was “the brainchild of Professor Darcy MacPherson who had experienced something like it in the Maritimes where he came from.” Steel recalled that MacPherson had suggested the idea to Dean Harvey Sector, of starting something similar in Manitoba. “I guess they trusted me to be able to develop this program for the Court of Appeal,” said Steel, who was appointed to the Manitoba Court of Queen’s Bench in 1995 and to the Manitoba Court of Appeal in 2000.



Former UM Chancellor Harvey Sector, O.M., C.M., LL.D. [BComm/67, LLB/92], was Dean of Law from 1999 to 2008 and instrumental in starting the collaborative clerkship program with the Manitoba Court of Appeal. Photo by Mike Latschislaw.

Where are they now?

Clerkship Program alumni attending the lunch were asked to share a photo and brief biography as well as respond to a short survey including questions regarding their biggest career highlight and providing a message for the creators of the Clerkship Program. Responses were impressive with careers ranging from alumni serving as counsel or partners at large Canadian law firms to Crown Attorneys, lecturers or instructors in law, or sole practitioners.

Of the 32 who provided feedback, 10 went on to clerk further after graduation at Federal or other provincial courts across Canada, and at least seven went on to

complete graduate studies in law, including one who is currently a lecturer in law in the UK and completing a PhD in Law. Six were Gold Medalists in law in their class.

Some had career highlights ranging from taking a client to see the Backstreet Boys to just plain appearing in the Manitoba Court of Appeal as counsel – and finding the experience enjoyable.

Messages for the Creators of the Clerkship program were immensely positive, including the following:

“Thank you for creating a program that gives students practical experience and insight from the top jurists in the Province. It was an unparalleled experience.”
– Terra Welsh [LLB/2007], Partner, Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP

“Keep it going. This is a phenomenal opportunity to understand the dynamics of decision making, observe models of advocacy and discuss their efficacy, and connect to potential lifelong mentors.”
– Meaghan Daniel [LLB/2008], Meaghan Daniel, Barrister & Solicitor

“My MBCA clerkship was a highlight of my time at Robson Hall. I continue to be so grateful for the opportunity – not just to work on interesting cases and develop my research and analysis skills, but the thoughtful way the program gave us ‘behind the scenes’ access to the judges and staff at the court. It was an invaluable learning experience.”
– Dayna Steinfeld [JD/2012], Partner and Winnipeg Lead Lawyer, RavenLaw LLP

“The clerkship program exposed me to how a court actually works to think through legal analysis and produce judgments, which was an important and indelible experience that factored into how I approached the practice and academic study of law. Thank you for making this enriching experience possible.” – Joshua Shaw [JD/2015], Lecturer in Law, University of Kent (Canterbury, UK)

“The Manitoba Court of Appeal clerkship program is invaluable to future legal practitioners. Getting a look at the inner workings of the court and having the opportunity to engage with the judges and assist in the appeal process is an incredible experience. This is particularly so for individuals that are in an early stage of their career. This is the type of program that should be fostered.” – Matthew Norlund [JD/2018], Associate, Taylor McCaffrey

“[The] program was excellent. It was the highlight of my law school experience. It provided unparalleled behind-the-scenes litigation training and taught me the importance of clear, concise written and oral advocacy. The judges and staff were incredibly generous with their time, offering helpful mentorship and practice tips and making me feel as though my research contributions and my opinions were valued and considered. Overall, I could not recommend the clerkship program highly enough to law students.”
– Carter Liebrecht [JD/2019], Associate, MLT Aikins LLP

Some choice highlights and memories were shared anonymously including the following gems:

“When I was called to the bar, Justice Hamilton wrote me the nicest letter that anyone has ever written to me. Including my husband.”

“A big thank you to Justice MacInnes for teaching me to never sit in a judge’s office chair (even if Chief Justice Scott expressly gave you permission...)”

As of 2020, the Manitoba Court of Appeal and the Faculty of Law agreed to expand the amount of credit hours to six up from three, with spots available for four third-year law students. “They don’t mind how much work they have to do for the six credit hours,” said Bueckert, describing the work students get assigned.

“[N]ot only do they learn how to do research, but they begin to understand how the judicial system works, what’s important, what’s not important, how judges come to decisions, and therefore, as a lawyer, what would be most persuasive when they appear in front of us,” said Steel. “So, it shows them a slice of what the judicial system is like, which I think is very valuable. Not many lawyers get that.”

One catch to getting into the Clerkship Program is that students in the top 25 per cent GPA are given preference.

Starting in the fall of 2024, the Clerkship Program will officially be offered as an Externship at the Faculty of Law and will be worth 12 credit hours. Applications for Externships typically open in the last week of May, and close in the first week of June. ■

PART TWO: COMPETITIONS

Mooting Opportunities

Through participation in **Moot competitions**, our law students develop real world advocacy skills and challenge themselves to strive for excellence in adversarial settings. Mooting is an excellent forum for students to develop proficiency in oral arguments, written facta, public speaking, and extemporaneous debate, while making connections with scholars, judges, and legal professionals from schools and cities throughout the country.

Each year, Robson Hall has the option to participate in as many as ten moot competitions hosted across Canada. Students try out for a spot on one of the moot teams through required classes, auditions and internal trials/competitions. The Moot committee then assigns students as appropriate to the different teams. Our students are recognized for their competitive spirit, oral advocacy and outstanding performances.

Most moot competitions take place in the same location each year, but some give each law school across Canada the opportunity to host. In the past, the University of Manitoba has hosted the Kawaskimhon, and most recently, the prestigious Jessup International Law Moot in 2023.



Faculty of Law proud to host Canadian Division of Jessup International Moot

JESSUP

by **Christine Mazur**

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) February 3, 2023)

This year marks the 50th anniversary since Canadian law schools first started hosting the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition's annual Canadian Division Qualifying Tournament in 1973. The University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law has the distinctive honour of hosting this Canadian leg of the world's largest moot court competition over the weekend of February 23 to 25, 2023 at The Fairmont Winnipeg Hotel.

Winning teams from the Canadian Division tournament go on to compete in the World Championship match (known as the White & Case Jessup International Rounds) being held April 9 – 15 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington, DC. Participants at the Jessup Cup finals hail from roughly 700 law schools in 100 countries. Law students learn to prepare written and oral arguments on complex issues of public international law involving hypothetical cases before the International Court of Justice.

“We are delighted that Robson Hall is hosting the Canadian Rounds of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition,” said Dr. Gillian MacNeil, an assistant professor at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law and co-coordinator of the competition with Dr. Gerard Kennedy. “We are particularly happy to be welcoming teams, advisors and guest judges from across Canada to compete in person for the first time in three years. We hope that many members of the Robson Hall community have a chance to come to the competition and observe some of the rounds.”

“A qualifying tournament of this size can't happen without help from the legal community,” said Kennedy.

“We are most thankful to our sponsors and volunteer judges and students,” he said, adding, “We especially would like to thank our student research assistant, Brandon Leverick, who has excelled in many aspects of organization, particularly regarding coordinating the volunteers. Volunteering for the competition is a great opportunity to interact with current law students and senior members of the legal profession and to witness oral advocacy first-hand.”

This year's moot problem addresses several international legal questions, including the interpretation of a peace treaty, deadly attacks in allegedly occupied territory, unilateral economic sanctions, and the legal consequences of failing to dispose of hazardous waste properly. ■

Winning teams from the Canadian Division tournament go on to compete in the World Championship match....

Moot Report 2024: A season of excellence

'Spirit' awards and fourth-best oral argument recognition follow mooters home

by **Christine Mazur**

(Adapted from the [story originally published in UM Today](#) on April 23, 2024)

The 2024 Moot season held another year of excellent learning opportunities for law students and resulted in several triumphs for the Manitoba moot teams. Awards won included the Spirit of the Laskin Award, the Spirit of Negotiation Award for the French stream of the Canadian National Negotiation Competition (CNNC), and recognition for the fourth-best mooter in the all-French language Bastarache moot.

The Spirit of the Laskin Award seems to follow Manitoba law students home to Robson Hall fairly often, since they have won it no less than four times in the past seven years. The recipient team is chosen by all participating teams and is given to the team best embodying the principles behind the Laskin which include congeniality, camaraderie, hard work, and commitment to bilingualism. Jayden Wlasichuk (3L), Zeynep Fattah (3L), Maia Bacchus (2L), Kirsten Nynych (2L) and researcher Ashley Slagerman (3L) made up the Spirit-winning Laskin team.

Éric Gagnon (3L) and Seth Lozinski (3L), both students in the Access to Justice in French concentration at Robson Hall, won the CNNC (French stream) spirit award while Brent Tichon (2L), also in the A2J French concentration, was recognized as the fourth-best mooter for his oral arguments at the French language Bastarache moot.

Manitoba students competed in a total of 10 national moot competitions in 2024, including:

- MacIntyre (Western) Cup Moot (February 9–10, Edmonton, AB)
- Gale Cup (February 9–10, Toronto, ON)
- Jessup Moot (February 22–24, Ottawa, ON)
- Fox Moot (February 23–24, Toronto, ON)
- National Family Law Negotiation Competition (February 27–29, Online)
- Laskin Moot (February 29–March 2, Calgary, AB)

- Bowman Tax Moot (March 1–2, Toronto, ON)
- Canadian National Negotiation Competition (March 1–2, Montreal, QC)
- Kawaskimhon Indigenous Moot (March 8–9, Kamloops, BC)
- Bastarache Moot (March 22–23, Ottawa, ON)

MacIntyre (Western) Cup (February 9–10, Edmonton, AB)



MacIntyre (Western) Cup team Tyson Priebe (3L) and Noah Scatliff (3L).

The 2024 team consisted of Noah Scatliff (3L) and Tyson Priebe (3L) and was coached by Evan Roitenberg, Adam Gingera and Laura Robinson. Scatliff and Priebe qualified as the UM Faculty of Law's representatives for the Western Cup after finishing in First and Second place in the [2023 Solomon Greenberg competition](#) held in-house at Robson Hall last fall.

"We didn't win, but it was a very fun weekend," said Scatliff, keeping a positive outlook. "I really feel like Tyson and I held our own. We fought well and had some great moments."

All of the teams bonded over similar experiences encountered while facing a very tough moot judiciary which challenged them. Even still, Scatliff said, "the trial was still a law school highlight for me."

Personally, I learned that there will always be issues that you can't prepare for, but that's part of being a trial lawyer! Prepare as much as you can, but be ready to roll with the punches."

– **Noah Scatliff (3L)**

Priebe, who is a Student Supervisor with the University of Manitoba Community Law Centre, added, "The Manitoban community that got us to the McIntyre Moot was wildly supportive, and we had an entirely positive experience at every stage of preparation for this moot. Our coaches gave so much of their time to help us practice, Judge Killeen volunteered to judge a full practice run-through with us, and we had many others cheering us on from the sidelines throughout the entire process. After the moot itself ended, we felt extremely encouraged by the amount of support we had received, and I for one am very excited to start my legal practice in this community."

Scatliff will be articling at a corporate firm, while Priebe will article with prosecutions.

Gale Cup

(February 9–10, Toronto, ON)



Manitoba Gale Cup team 2024: Steven Csincsa (2L), Nathan Dueck (3L), Melissa Hazelton and Dayna Queau-Guzzi (coaches), Lauren Corcoran (3L), and Diana Gutierrez (3L).

Crown Attorney Dayna Queau-Guzzi and Melissa Hazelton coached the Gale Cup Moot team, consisting of Steven Csincsa and Lauren Corcoran (Appellant Team) who competed against the University of Toronto, and Nathan Dueck and Diana Gutierrez

(Respondent Team) who competed against the University of Victoria. The team researcher was Caitlin Madden (3L).

Between February 9-10 the students competed at the Ontario Court of Justice in Toronto arguing the *R v Beaver*, 2022 SCC 54 decision – which dealt with warrantless arrest and *Charter* issues (ss. 9 and 10) in the context of s. 24(2).

According to Queau-Guzzi, "While they did not advance to the finals, they did an absolutely amazing job and their preparation paid off!"

Practicing over the course of two months, Queau-Guzzi said the students would argue in the Manitoba Court of Appeal (courtroom 330 at the downtown Winnipeg Law Courts building), before various judges and justices of the three levels of court.

"On their last practice, on February 6, they actually appeared before a panel of current Manitoba Court of Appeal justices, including the newly appointed Chief Justice Rivolaen, and Justices Kroft and Turner," said Queau-Guzzi. "The panel was very impressed with our students and the Chief Justice remarked that she "hoped all of the students would remain in Manitoba and become litigators.""

Jessup Moot

(Feb 22nd–24th, Ottawa, ON)



Manitoba Jessup Moot team 2024: Stefan Leicht (2L), Liam Brown (2L), Eric Epp (3L), Sawarn Benning (3L) (researcher) and Brandon Leverick (3L) at the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa for the Jessup Moot, February 22 – 24.

Team Manitoba for the Jessup International Law moot consisted of: Stefan Leicht (2L), Liam Brown (2L), Eric Epp (3L), Sawarn Benning (3L) (researcher) and Brandon Leverick (3L). The team was coached by Assistant Professor Gillian MacNeil.

“I would recommend anyone interested in international law to compete at Jessup because it’s one of the few opportunities you get to learn about this area of law and it’s a great networking opportunity.”

– **Brandon Leverick (3L)**

As the Public International Law course has not been offered to students since 2020, this Year’s Jessup team was selected using the previous method of fielding the team during the summer. However, this is changing, with the re-introduction of this course to make students more competitive and prepare them for this prestigious international Moot. Going forward, auditions for the Jessup team will be held in September.

While future team members will be selected from those enrolled in the soon-to-be-offered Public International Law course this fall, the 2024 team had a fantastic experience, finding it “exhausting and exhilarating at the same time,” according to Brandon Leverick (3L). “One thing that really stood out to me was the sense of community,” said Leverick. “Almost everyone there, including judges and coaches, have gone through the same mooting experience. Although it is hard, they clearly want you to succeed and ask tough questions to get you to shine with your knowledge and the work you put in.”

MacNeil, who will be teaching the Public International Law course next year, said, “I thought the team did well. They competed in three rounds, some in front of a ‘hot’ bench and some in front of a ‘cold’ bench.”

A ‘hot’ bench, she explained, means judges who ask a lot of questions, purposefully trying to pull mooters off-script. ‘Cold’ bench judges maintain poker faces and keep students wondering. The general trend at the Jessup Moot, MacNeil explained, is for a ‘hot’ bench where judges constantly try to get the mooters stuck. “A lot of judges do the Jessup year after year,” MacNeil said. “It’s designed to test advocacy skills and makes for a good learning experience. It’s all in good sport.”

“Dr MacNeil was such a supportive coach,” said Leverick. “She [judged] every round and provided constructive feedback. I hope she continues to coach the Jessup!”

Harold G. Fox Moot (February 23–24, Toronto, ON)



Manitoba Fox Moot team 2024: Heather Morris (3L), Kerith Tung (3L), Trusha Dash (3L), and Connor Giesbrecht (2L)

This year’s Fox Moot team was comprised of: Connor Giesbrecht, Kerith Tung, Trusha Dash (3L), and Heather Morris. Denise Sarmiento was the researcher and coaches were Julia Ryckman [JD/2016] (Fillmore Riley LLP) and Kelsey Desjardine [JD/2009] (Department of Justice Canada).

“Participating in the Harold G. Fox Moot was a journey filled with invaluable experiences and personal growth,” said Morris, reflecting on the experience.

“The moot provided me with a platform to refine my research, writing, and oral advocacy skills under the mentorship of my coaches, which confirmed my interest in litigation. Advocating in front of federal court judges and esteemed Intellectual Property lawyers was a thrill. I met law students from across the country and shook hands with Supreme Court Justice Suzanne Côté. Travelling with my teammates was an adventure in itself. I will cherish the memories and inside jokes we made along the way. Overall, the Harold G Fox Moot was an enriching experience that I would recommend to students at Robson Hall.”

Morris, who is interested in civil litigation, privacy and intellectual property law, will be articling at the Alberta Court of Appeal and then Norton Rose Fulbright.

The team expressed many thanks the coaches along with former coach and mentor, John Myers [JD/1990], who is a partner at Taylor McCaffrey LLP and a long-time Intellectual Property lawyer.

National Family Law Negotiation Competition

(February 27–29, co-hosted online by the Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba and Osgoode Hall Law School of York University)

The Family Law moot team for Manitoba consisted of 2Ls Elise Alider and Eric Moon, and 3Ls Alyssa Thomas, Kali Faingold and Kennedy Merrill represented Manitoba at the NFLNC, and were coached by **Mercedes Ayala [JD/2018]** (Mitousis Lemieux Howard Law Corporation), Adrianna Aiello (MLH), and Stéphanie Bauch (MLH). The Competition took place online this year and was **co-hosted by both the UM Faculty of Law and Osgoode Hall Law School**.

“The National Family Law Negotiation Competition was an incredibly unique experience. Having the opportunity to be coached by experienced lawyers about negotiation skills in family law is something that we will carry with us as we move into our practices,” said team member Kali Faingold. “Competing against other dedicated law students and learning from their negotiation styles gave us different perspectives on how to successfully negotiate to reach an outcome that works for all parties.”

Mercedes Ayala, a 2018 alum of Robson Hall and family lawyer at MLH, said that the team participated in three rounds of negotiations on various family law

issues. “Great job students!,” she said. “Negotiation allows for resolution outside Court, assisting families in maintaining their relationships intact and to move forward. We lawyers were proud to watch the next generation of lawyers learn the skills which will be integral to their practice!”

Laskin Moot (February 29–March 2, Calgary, AB)



Manitoba Laskin Moot team 2024: Jayden Wlasichuk (3L); Zeynep Fattah (2L); Tanys Bjornson (coach); Maia Bacchus (2L); and Kirsten Nynych (2L) [Missing from the photo are researcher, Ashley Slagerman (3L) and coach, Tamara Edkins (Justice Manitoba)]

The Spirit Prize-winning Laskin team consisted of Jayden Wlasichuk (3L), Zeynep Fattah (2L), Maia Bacchus (2L), Kirsten Nynych (2L) and researcher Ashley Slagerman (3L) who were coached by Tanys Bjornson and Tamara Edkins (Manitoba Department of Justice). Maia Bacchus, a student in the Access to Justice in French Concentration program, submitted her argument in French, thus fulfilling this bilingual moot’s requirement for mooters to compete in both French and English.

“The Laskin Moot was such an incredible experience,” said Wlasichuk. “There were dozens of students from across Canada all together in Calgary to moot about constitutional and administrative issues relating to Artificial Intelligence – thank goodness we only needed to know the law, not the technology!”

UM was awarded the ‘Spirit of the Laskin’ award, the recipients for which are selected by the other mooting teams and given to the school that best showcases the spirit of the competition – making friends and building community. “UM won this award last year, so we were honoured to bring it home again, and to tie with the Moncton team,” Wlasichuk explained. “The Laskin was such a great learning experience, and one of my favourite times of law school!”

“The Spirit of the Laskin means so much to us, and we are proud that the other teams thought of us when they voted. The Laskin was a wonderful opportunity for us to make connections before we go off to practice law – and it’s a great practical experience that we can carry for the rest of our careers!”

– **Jayden Wlasichuk (3L)**

Bowman Tax Moot (March 1–2, Toronto, ON)



Manitoba Bowman Tax Moot Team, 2024: David Silver (coach), Abiel Kwok, Jenny Bi, Isha Khandelwal, Calvin Ediger (missing), Professor Darcy MacPherson (coach).

In 2023, Manitoba’s Bowman Tax Moot team won the prize for Best Appellant Factum, making a tough act for the 2024 team to follow. The colours of Robson Hall were carried by Brandon Gray (3L), and Sawarn Benning (2L), Matthew London (2L) and Justin Papoff (2L) as oralists, with support from Ben Maness (3L) as the researcher. Coaches included Professor Darcy

MacPherson and David Silver (Department of Justice, Canada).

Upon winning Best Factum – Appellant, Brandon Gray modestly directed praise aimed at the team towards their coach’s advice. “I don’t think we can take too much credit for our factum,” he explained. “Our coach David Silver told us to do two things: one, point-first writing; and two, short sentences. We basically just did that and it seemed to work out okay.”

Next up, the team of Abiel Kwok (3L), Jenny Bi (3L), Isha Khandelwal (2L), Calvin Ediger (3L), with researcher Tobey Xiang (2L) represented Manitoba at the Bowman Tax Moot in Toronto in 2024. Coaches David Silver, [JD/2012] (Department of Justice), and Professor Darcy MacPherson once again advised the students.

Isha Khandelwal, found her time spent training for the Bowman Tax Moot invaluable. “[P]articipating in the moot was an absolute a highlight of my time at Robson Hall—something I did not anticipate by a longshot. Not only did I have the opportunity to engage with brilliant legal professionals who served as judges throughout our practices, but I was also impressed by the hands-on experience I gained specifically when crafting our factum.”

Every aspect of the work she was exposed to in preparation for the competition helped Khandelwal develop skills that otherwise come once practicing law. “Being a part of a moot was challenging, particularly given the sophisticated subject matter and narrow deadlines, the experience was genuinely beneficial, and I eagerly look forward to applying the skills in my practice.”

Khandelwal expressed thanks to coaches David Silver, and Professor MacPherson for their mentorship and guidance as well. “Not only were they remarkably intelligent and resourceful, but they also demonstrated immense patience and support throughout the entire process leading up to and including the moot itself,” she said.

Canadian National Negotiation Competition

(March 1–2, McGill University, Montreal, QC)



CNNC Manitoba team 2024 left to right: Rebecca Penner (3L); Ryan Hall (3L); Nicolas Nudler (3L); Éric Gagnon (3L), Jamie Robertson (3L); Andrew Torbiak, coach (Tradition Law); Andrea Doyle, coach (Instructor, U of M Law); Heather Wadsworth, coach (Amica Law); and Seth Lozinski (3L).

Three University of Manitoba Faculty of Law teams from Robson Hall recently competed in the eighth annual Canadian National Negotiation Competition (CNNC). The competition was held at McGill University, Faculty of Law in Montreal on March 1st and 2nd, 2024, and for the second year in a row had both a French and an English stream. Against a talented field of the best law student negotiators from across Canada, the three U of M teams of Éric Gagnon and Seth Lozinski; Ryan Hall and Nicolas Nudler; and Rebecca Penner and Jamie Robertson put in extremely strong showings. I was involved in assisting with the administration of the competition, and I heard praise from many people, including judges, coaches, and fellow competitors, about their performances.

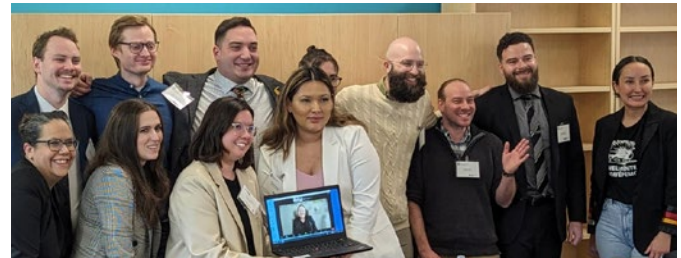
The pair of Éric Gagnon and Seth Lozinski, who competed in the French stream, even received the “Spirit of Negotiation” award for that stream, which is peer-nominated and goes to the team that best illustrates the values of collaboration, humility, teamwork and respect. Robson Hall teams have a long history of winning this award. Éric stated, “I was especially honoured to have been chosen by my national peers for the Spirit of the Negotiation prize, alongside my partner Seth Lozinski, for our commitment towards collegiality and collaboration throughout the negotiation process.”

This was the second year that the CNNC implemented a parallel French stream. Teams competed in French, using the same problems (which were translated) as the English stream.

“Preparation for the CNNC was a team effort. I wish to acknowledge and thank the support that was provided to our French team by our students participating in English (Jamie, Rebecca, Nico and Ryan) and their coaches, Andrew Torbiak and Heather Wadsworth, as well as articling students Chris Dick, Norton Rose Fulbright Canada and Kennedy Pinette, MLT Aikins LLP. Chris Dick and Kennedy Pinette, recent graduates of the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law, successfully competed in last year’s inaugural French stream of the CNNC and provided valuable feedback and insights in Éric and Seth’s preparations.”


In 2023, the team of Chris Dick and Kennedy Pinette won second place in the inaugural French stream of the competition, an accomplishment that is all the more significant given the fact that four out of the six teams participating in French were from Québec. In the English stream, Ramsay Hall and Samantha Harvey placed third, and Benjamin Leahy and Jodi Plenert also performed at an extremely high level in a very talented field of 18 teams. The CNNC was held at McGill University, Faculty of Law in Montreal on February 24 and 25, 2023.

Kawaskimhon Indigenous Moot (March 8–9, Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC)



Manitoba Kawaskimhon 2024 moot team members Carlie Kane and Raven Richards help a virtual participant pose for the group photo, front row, 3rd and 4th from the left. Photo by Marc Kruse (coach).

The team of Carlie Kane (3L) and Raven Richards (3L) competed at TRU in Kamloops at the annual Kawaskimhon Indigenous Moot, coached by Marc Kruse, Director of Indigenous Legal Learning and Services, and Daniel Diamond, Assistant Professor.



The Kawaskimhon Moot started at the University of Toronto in 1994 and is hosted by a different Canadian law school each year. The Kawaskimhon is a consensus-based, non-adversarial moot that incorporates Indigenous legal traditions alongside

“The Kawaskimhon moot experience stands out for its departure from the traditional appellate style moot in favor of a negotiation format, which I found refreshing for its conversational and relaxed atmosphere.”

– **Carlie Kane (3L)**

federal, provincial and international law, and concepts of dispute resolution. Teams may represent a variety of parties (depending on the nature of the moot problem) such as First Nations, Band Councils, traditional Chiefs’ organizations, government agencies, and industry.

Kruse explains that the Kawaskimhon serves as a pivotal platform for Robson Hall students and faculty to actively engage with Indigenous academics, students, lawyers, and communities spanning across Canada. “Our team tackled the negotiation representing a National Resource Coalition, offering our students the

unique challenge of advocating for a client whose legal position conflicted with their own political beliefs.” Kruse said, describing this year’s problem. “Drawing from a diverse array of Indigenous Legal Orders, including traditional narratives, our negotiation table was rich with cultural guidance. Our students had a significant presence throughout the negotiation process and strongly advocated for their client’s position.”

Learning opportunities arose when the Manitoba students encountered some difficult positions presented by other Teams, Kruse observed, and it became clear there existed a differing of opinions among the students about the relationship between Aboriginal Title and Sovereignty. “Our students navigated the negotiating process in a professional manner and were able to bring forward their client’s position strongly and consistently,” he said.

Kane noted that “The form of negotiation and moderator followed Indigenous protocols, but the final form of our agreement still fell into a colonial common law framework which I found to be a discouraging result.”

From the student perspective, Kane learned that “[e]ngaging in negotiations with law students from various Canadian institutions, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, offered valuable insights into the diverse teachings and theories of Aboriginal law across our nation’s law schools. The experience underscored the crucial need for more Indigenous representation in legal education and spaces set aside for Indigenous perspectives and methodologies.”

The need for further education and learning about Aboriginal law in Canada was very pronounced during the team’s time at the negotiation table, which Kane said “oscillated between moments of laughter and tension, making it an emotional rollercoaster, which is probably true to practice in that Indigenous folk often express themselves through humor. However, it was emotionally taxing to converse with teams who lacked a nuanced understanding of Aboriginal law and its significance in relation to Aboriginal rights and title, reflecting the disparities in legal education across different law schools.”

An important observation Kane came away with was that some teams tended to prioritize being heard over listening to others, which became problematic for other participants. “Towards the end, it felt like certain teams were selective about whom they were willing to engage with, highlighting the varied educational backgrounds shaping our perspectives,” said Kane. “In the spirit of negotiations, every participant deserves to have their voice recognized. Again, I found my experience probably true to life in that even while settlers are trying to learn and apply Indigenous Legal Orders, Indigenous voices are still left feeling unheard.”

Despite these challenges, the moot provided an invaluable opportunity to forge new connections and relationships. “[The] experience gave me an opportunity to put in practice my understanding of ILO [Indigenous Legal Orders] and how law ought to be practiced. I’m especially grateful for the unwavering support of my colleagues, Raven Richards, Marc Kruse, and Daniel Diamond, whose solidarity and camaraderie sustained me throughout this enriching experience.”

Bastarache Moot (March 22–23, Ottawa, ON)



Bastarache Moot Manitoba team 2024, left to right: Julien Bédard, coach (Justice Canada), Bradley Légaré (3L), Brent Tichon (2L), Nadine Plourde (2L), and Alexander Bastin (2L) [Missing from the photo is researcher, Samantha Pearce (2L)]

In both 2023 and 2024, the University of Manitoba’s Faculty of Law fielded very strong teams in the all-French Bastarache Moot. Competing at the Concours de Plaidoirie Michel-Bastarache at the University of Ottawa, March 17–19, 2023, the team of Seth Lozinski, Marie Boyd, Trusha Dash, and Dominique Gibson, all 2Ls at the time, earned much praise from judges and organizers when they took second-best pair

overall and second and third-best oralists, especially since French is not the first language of any of the team members. The team was co-coached by Julien Bédard of Justice Canada, and Richard Goulet of Manitoba Hydro, with Dr. Gerald Heckman (now Justice Heckman of the Federal Court of Appeal) as Faculty Advisor.

Dash and Gibson, Manitoba’s appellant pair, mooted in the finals and placed second-best pair overall. Gibson placed as second-best oralist, while Boyd took third best oralist.

In 2024, the team of Nadine Plourde (2L), Alexander Bastin (2L), Bradley Legare (3L), and Brent Tichon (2L), supported by researcher Samantha Pearce (2L), competed entirely in French for this competition dedicated to language rights and the legacy of The Honourable Michel Bastarache of the Supreme Court of Canada. The team was coached by practicing lawyers Richard Goulet (Manitoba Hydro) and Julien Bedard (Justice Canada) with Faculty of Law advisor Andrea Doyle [JD/2009].

All members of the team are enrolled in the Access to Justice in French concentration program taught in part by Doyle.

“I’m grateful that I got the opportunity to participate in the Bastarache Moot not only because it was another chance to learn and prove that I can be an effective French advocate, but also because I got the opportunity to represent the Franco-Manitoban community in a mock appeal that touched on a subject that is important to me,” said Légaré. “For me, the best part of the Bastarache Moot was the opportunity to be immersed in a totally French environment composed of people from communities similar to our own.”

As mentioned above, Brent Tichon was recognized as the fourth-best mooter for his oral arguments this year.

Doyle contributed a full report on the Bastarache team’s experience in the UM Today story [“Moot Report 2024: Manitoba Team proudly represents at Bastarache Moot.”](#) ■

Both Sides Know: Competing in Davies Moot an exceptional exercise in dynamic litigation training

Davies Corporate/Securities Moot

The Faculty of Law did not field a team for the Davies Corporate/Securities Moot in 2024 but Team Manitoba won second-best oralist in 2022. This moot has regularly been part of the competitions Manitoba law students can look forward to competing in.



UM LAW'S 2022 DAVIES MOOT TEAM (LEFT TO RIGHT): AIYANA MCKENZIE (2L), KEENAN FONSECA (2L), BRANDON GRAY (2L), TAYLOR ANTONCHUK (3L), AND RESEARCHER ALEX BROGGY (3L)

by Christine Mazur

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on April 22, 2022)

Beyond tackling an advanced transaction in corporate law that not even lawyers five-years out encounter, law students competing in the Davies Corporate/Securities Moot need to come prepared to argue both sides of the problem. As a testament to the dynamic brilliance and professionalism of this year's team from Robson Hall, Brandon Gray (2L), who tied for second-place Top Oralist, immediately expressed appreciation for his teammates and coaches for their contributions and assistance during the competition.

In addition to Gray, the Manitoba team consisted of Taylor Antonchuk (3L), Keenan Fonseca (2L), Aiyana McKenzie (2L), and Researcher Alex Broggy (3L). Ari Hansen (Fillmore Riley), Sharyne Hamm and Paolo Aquila (both of TDS Law), coached along with Faculty advisor and coach, Professor Darcy MacPherson.


The fictional problem was loosely based on an actual decision that came from the Alberta Court of Appeal: *Calfrac*, which explored the use of plan of arrangement provisions under the Canada Business Corporations Act in connection with a recapitalization transaction designed to reduce a company's indebtedness and improve its liquidity. "This is not sort of the thing that you're going to do in your first five years out, certainly in Winnipeg," MacPherson remarked, emphasizing the challenging nature of the problem. "So, for the students to deal with a problem of this depth and to truly confront *both* sides of an issue like that means that they get an experience that typically, you're not going to get at law school."

Also, in having to argue both sides, MacPherson explained that the Davies is unique from other moots. "You don't get to decide, okay, I'd rather be the appellant on this case, and then have somebody else say I'd rather be the respondent. You have to know your arguments well enough that whoever walks through your door, you can make the argument whether appellant or respondent, which I think is a great thing for our students to recognize, at least on the private law side."

In private law, MacPherson noted, representing opposite sides can indeed happen a lot. "Today, you're representing a company, tomorrow, you're representing a group of dissident shareholders, usually not in the same case. But nonetheless, there's advantages to that. So, I think that that's one of the great advantages for the students," he said.

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

In full appreciation of these advantages, Antonchuk said she will definitely be happy to have the lessons learned from this moot experience under her belt as she heads into articling in June. "The biggest learning experience I got was learning how to better advocate for your client," she said. "Through the process of preparing to argue both sides, it really helped me to not only learn the strengths and weaknesses of the case, but also how to address them in a positive way in my



Participating in this moot has been one of the key highlights from my law school experience, and I would strongly recommend anyone who is interested to try out. Given my interest in litigation, the moot was a fantastic way to further develop the clinical skills that I will be using in my future practice. Additionally, the skills and knowledge that I gained from both the coaches and numerous practitioner guest judges was beyond measure.

— **Taylor Antonchuk**

oral submissions. Additionally, we were lucky enough to spend some time with various litigation practitioners who provided invaluable insights into advocacy such as using the point first method and theory-based advocacy.”

While she won’t go on to practice Corporate or Securities law, Antonchuk does want to practice litigation, and found that aspect of the moot very appealing. As a recommendation to future moot participants, while a prerequisite isn’t required, she did feel she could have benefitted from taking Securities Law prior to the moot.

The intense level of practice with coaches and guest judges helped the team to bond throughout the process. “We all were so proud and excited for Brandon when he was awarded second place oralist,” Antonchuk said. “It felt like a team win, and Brandon was so deserving of the award. I am also so grateful for our coaches who took so much time out of their schedules to help us every step of the way. I do not think we could have done this well without them, as I truly felt prepared after spending so many practices together and getting so much great critical feedback.”

McKenzie also found the moot helped her hone practical advocacy skills she had not yet had a change

to do in law school. “The experience of writing a factum and going through multiple drafts to continue improving was a great practice and improved my legal writing skills. It was also great to take a deep dive on a specific area of the law,” she said, recommending that anyone contemplating litigation should definitely try out for a moot team.

TOP ORALIST

Gray’s journey to ranking among the top oralists of the competition was a real learning process, and not something that happened over night. “I learned that as an advocate, you are the expert of your case and your primary job as an advocate is to make your pitch as simple and clear as possible for the Judge,” he explained. “I remember, during a practice with real Manitoba Court of Appeal and Queen’s Bench judges, going over what I thought was the self-explanatory stuff in a cursory fashion and delving right into the technical issues of the case. After practice one of the justices told me they still didn’t really understand what the case was about. That’s when I realized I had failed. I needed to do a better job of taking the time to paint a picture for the judges, showing them what this case was about and why my client should win. I forgot they didn’t have the luxury of spending 80-plus hours going over this case like I did.”

Gray would recommend that all 1L students try out for moot competitions in their upper years, and the Davies even if they don’t have an interest in corporate law. “There are not any absolutely required prerequisites, but it is usually a good idea to have Corp I under your belt,” he cautioned.

You can’t really know you’ll hate litigating until you’ve tried it. You might’ve come to law school knowing you hate public speaking, so you think “I would hate litigating”. But litigating is a different beast. You’re not sitting in an auditorium with eyes leering at you from all directions. You’re having a conversation with a judge, being a law nerd. — Brandon Gray

Gray recalled a story a lawyer told him about her experience having a litigation file dumped on her that changed her view of litigation completely. “Why not find out now if your preconceived notions about mooting (and litigating) are right or wrong,” he concluded. “It’s a win either way. Even if you take it and hate it the whole way through, who cares! Its three months of your life and the career clarity you’ll get from the experience is worth it in the long run.” ■

Just Between Us: Intramural Competitions at Robson Hall 2023–2024 Season



2023 Solomon Greenberg participants left to right: Thomas Mooney, Noah Scatliff, Genevieve Smith, Tyson Priebe, Melinda Moch, Dominique Gibson (standing)

Each fall, Robson Hall’s moot season kicks off with two long-standing annual intramural competitions, namely, the Solomon Greenberg and Robson Hall Negotiations Competition. In recent years, the Faculty of Law has experienced two additional competitions during Winter Term: the student-spear-headed Mini Moot, and the Art Braid Business Law Case Competition.

Moot News 2023: Solomon Greenberg Moot sets the scene for advocacy series

Winners will represent Manitoba across Canada

by **Christine Mazur**

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on November 27, 2023)

The annual Solomon Greenberg Moot took place on Grey Cup Sunday, November 19, 2023 at the Winnipeg Law Courts. Participating students were third-year law students Melinda Moch, Noah Scatliff, Genevieve Smith, Dominique Gibson, Thomas Mooney, and Tyson Priebe. The judges noted the participants did an incredible job and that they did not have an easy task deciding on the winners.

Decide they did, however, and Tyson Priebe was declared the winner with runner-up Noah Scatliff.

The two will represent Robson Hall in the Western Canada Trial Moot (aka the MacIntyre Cup), which will be hosted early in 2024 by the University of Alberta. Finalists from that competition will proceed to the national trial moot, the Sopinka Cup, typically held in Ottawa.

Robson Hall’s in-house trial moot has a long and illustrious history at the University of Manitoba’s Faculty of Law, reaching back nearly 60 years, with winners including students who have gone on to become Court of Queen’s Bench Judges, Ministers of Justice and even former Dean of Law, and Chancellor of the University of Manitoba – in the example of Harvey Sector, C.M., O.M. [BComm/1967, LLB/1992, LLD/2022].

The Solomon Greenberg Moot was named for a well-respected Winnipeg lawyer who was considered one of the best criminal defence lawyers in Western Canada. Greenberg was born in Odessa, Russia in 1894, immigrated with his family to Canada in 1911, and registered at the Manitoba Law school after graduating from St. John’s High School in 1915. Greenberg was thought of as legendary in the legal community, and was a hero to his clients who were mostly of modest means. He died of a heart attack in 1958 while running a trial, and in 1964, his widow made a donation to the Faculty of Law to provide a prize for the student judged to be the best presenter in the annual Solomon Greenberg Moot Court Competition. The Manitoba Bar Association later contributed more funds to also support a prize for the competition’s first-runner up. More information about Greenberg’s life can be found in Norm Larsen’s book [Notable People from Manitoba’s Legal History](#) at page 133.

Director of Clinics, Elizabeth McCandless said, “We are very grateful to our volunteers – we couldn’t run the trial without Judge Tim Killeen, Judge Raymond Wyant, Judge Kusham Sharma, and Judge David Ireland. The students were supported by lawyer coaches who devoted their time leading up to the trial: Adam Gingera and Dayna Queau-Guzzi for the Crown; Evan Roitenberg and Laura Robinson for the Defence.”

Read more about past winners of the Solomon Greenberg Moot. ■

Eighteenth Annual Negotiation Competition encourages students to excel

Negotiation is a primary tool for solving a client's problems

by Yvan Larocque, Clinical Instructor

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on October 24, 2023)



2023 Solomon Greenberg participants left to right: Thomas Mooney, Noah Scatliff, Genevieve Smith, Tyson Priebe, Melinda Moch, Dominique Gibson (standing)

Fourteen teams of 3rd-year Robson Hall students competed in the eighteenth annual Robson Hall Negotiation Competition on the evening of October 11th, 2023. The competitors were selected for having excelled in their Legal Negotiation course in their second year of law school. The main purpose of the competition is to provide Robson Hall students with the opportunity to develop superb negotiating skills. All legal training and professional expertise is directed toward one key objective—solving a client's problems. Negotiation is a primary tool for accomplishing precisely that.

In this competition, two teams of two students, each representing opposing parties to a fictitious dispute, met in an attempt to reach a resolution or deal, with each team possessing confidential details about client circumstances and settlement preferences. This year the law students negotiated an employment dispute between a fictitious articling student and their fictitious law firm. All of this took place under the scrutiny of the judges, who scored each team's negotiation skills. At the end of each session, the judges provided detailed feedback to each team about what they did well, and potential areas for improvement.

The event was generously sponsored by Fillmore Riley, which has been supporting the competition for over a decade. In addition to covering the competition costs and supplying prizes, lawyers from the firm volunteered to judge the students. These lawyers were: Alexandra Broggy, Aaron Challis, Annika Friesen, Ari Hanson, Amber Harms, Sven Hombach, Rachel Loewen, Nick Noonan, Meghan Payment, Andrea Signorelli, Alexa Smith, and Davie Thiessen.

These judges were tremendously impressed with the caliber of the students' negotiations, and were faced with the unenviable task of selecting a winner. Due to their stellar performance, the negotiating team of **Nicolas Nudler** and **Ryan Hall** were awarded first place. The runners up, who also did a tremendous job, were **Jamie Robertson** and **Rebecca Penner**. Both teams will have the opportunity to represent Robson Hall and compete in the Canadian National Negotiation Competition in the new year.

Robson Hall students have a long history of success in inter-school competitions: the winner of the 2014 Robson Hall competition even went on to win the 2015 International Negotiation Competition in Dublin, Ireland.

A sincere thanks to Fillmore Riley for its generous sponsorship of the competition.

Congratulations Nicholas and Ryan, Jamie and Rebecca! ■

All of this took place under the scrutiny of the judges, who scored each team's negotiation skills.

Mini Moot Triumphs Again in 2024

March 11 at Robson Hall Moot Courtroom



Winners and runner-up teams from the Robson Hall Mini Moot 2024: left to right: runners-up Ken Vong and Sameer Harris. Winners: Sebastien Meiers and Riley O'Hara

by Siena McIlwraith-Fraticelli (1L)

Robson Hall students once again showcased their advocacy skills during the annual Mini Moot competitions, a tradition since 2018. Hosted by the Clinical Experience Committee and sponsored by Filmore Riley, the major supporter of this event, this year saw robust participation in addition to the successful 2024 regular moot season.

Led by Committee Chairs Jessica Blatta and Ashley Slaggerman, this student-led initiative provides a platform for students to apply some of the skills they learned throughout the year in a friendly competition. Unlike regular moots, which are only open to upper-year students, the Mini Moot offers a fail-safe environment, open to first year Law, and Master of Human Rights, students to practice crafting legal arguments and public speaking.

This year students were assigned the 2018 case from the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC), *Law Society of British Columbia v Trinity Western University* (2018 SCC 32). They were asked to participate as either the appellants or respondents; and to form legal arguments as if they were appealing to a court higher than the SCC. Lawyers and Robson Hall professors acted as the esteemed Judges for this competition, keeping

participants on their toes as they responded to various questions.

On March 11th, 17 students participated in the competition held at Robson Hall. Among them, Sebastian Meiers (1L) and Riley O'Hara (1L) emerged as the winners, with Ken Vong (1L) and Sameer Harris (1L) as the runners-up.

Feedback from this year's participants was enthusiastic. "It was a lot of fun—a different experience, thinking on your feet. I really enjoyed engaging with all the practical sides of the law, and trying out the skills that you've been learning throughout the year" said Meiers.

Inspired by their involvement, many students go on to seek out moot opportunities. As one of this year's winners, Meiers, commented, "I definitely enjoyed the oral advocacy experience and am looking forward to doing a moot again in the future." Meiers emphasized the invaluable learning experience the Mini Moots offer, especially for those interested in litigation.



There's no doubt that the ongoing success of Mini Moot is a testament to the diligence, hard work and collaborative efforts of so many – from the students who organize and oversee the event, to the lawyers and professors who serve as judges, to the generous sponsors.

There's no doubt that the ongoing success of Mini Moot is a testament to the diligence, hard work and collaborative efforts of so many – from the students who organize and oversee the event, to the lawyers and professors who serve as judges, to the generous sponsors. It is this level of commitment to nurturing the next generation of legal minds that makes this such an important event in our annual calendar. Congratulations to this year's competitors as we eagerly anticipate next year's Mini Moot. ■

“It was a lot of fun—a different experience, thinking on your feet. I really enjoyed engaging with all the practical sides of the law, and trying out the skills that you've been learning throughout the year” said Meiers.

Art Braid Business Law Case Competition (March 22 at TDS LLP)



Art Braid Cup 2024 winning team of Moira Kennedy (2L), Maria Garcia Manzano (2L), and Meredith Harley (2L).

by Rebecca Penner (3L)

(Read the [full story originally published in UM Today on April 9, 2024](#))

The **2nd Annual Art Braid Business Law Case Competition** took place on March 22 at the Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP law offices in Winnipeg. The competition was organized by Robson Hall's Business Law Group, hosted by TDS, and supported by the Faculty of Law's Marcel A. Desautels Centre for Private Enterprise and the Law.

The team of Maria Garcia Manzano (2L), Meredith Harley (2L), and Moira Kennedy (2L) won the Art Braid Cup for 2024. ■

Going Above and Beyond

University of Manitoba law students head to The Hague for Inter-University Law Debate Tournament Finals



Robson Hall students at the Peace Palace in The Hague. Left to right: Stefan Leicht, Liam Brown, Diana Gutierrez.

The Hague Debate

This year, the third-place winners from last year's competition, Liam Brown (2L), Diana Gutierrez (3L), and Stefan Liecht (2L), returned to support Robson Hall's new team at the 2024 Hague Inter-University Law Debate Tournament. Coached by Diana Gutierrez (3L), the team included Victoria Andrews (1L), Keerat Bhullar (1L), and Sameer Harris (1L).

The team advanced through the initial group rounds, securing victories against Tallinn University of Technology and the University of Lagos. This performance once again highlighted the skills and prowess of Robson Hall students, proudly representing the institution for a second consecutive year. Congratulations to this year's competitors, and we look forward to seeing what next year holds for the Robson Hall Team.

Robson Hall students' participation in the Hague debate builds on the groundbreaking debut in 2023. The following article captures some of the excitement of that initial experience.



DIANA GUTIERREZ, 2L

by Christine Mazur

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on May 29, 2023)

Not able to get enough of arguing with people during regular moot competition season, three intrepid law students: Liam Brown (1L), Diana Gutierrez (2L), and Stefan Leicht (1L), took the initiative to sign themselves up for The Hague Inter-University Law Debate Tournament 2023. After initially defeating the University of Melbourne team, they won against the French University of Armenia team in the Quarter-finals, and competed against Colombia in the Semi-finals on the Victoria Day weekend. They now face the University of Western Ontario in a competition for third place on Tuesday, May 30 in The Hague.

When Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of Law, heard of what the Manitoba students were doing, he offered support from the Faculty of Law. Now, because the team has advanced this far, they have guaranteed the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law an official spot in the tournament for 2024.

The final stages take place in The Hague and are organized in cooperation with both the United Nations Institute of Training and Research and the Oxford University Press (OUP).



STEFAN LEICHT, 1L

Gutierrez, Brown and Leicht got involved in the competition after the Robson Hall Debate Team shared the information with law students. “I was already a member of the Jessup moot team, and its focus is international law, which I really enjoyed learning about,” said Gutierrez. “I decided to sign up because I thought that an international event, where I would get to engage with this area of law, practice advocacy, and get to meet students from around the world, was an incredible opportunity.”

Teams are typically given the various topics of debate for each round five to seven days in advance. “We won’t know what side of the topic we argue (for or against the motion) until five minutes before the debate starts,” explained Gutierrez, “so we have to prepare for both sides.”

As the three Manitobans prepare for their final debate, Leicht shared that his favourite topic so far was “Every state must notify the international community, or at least its immediate neighbouring states, with sufficient time reserve should it wish to start extraction of natural resources that may affect water quality in the region.”

To get an idea of what other kinds of issues the competition involves, check out the Manitoba team competing in the Quarter-Finals against the French University of Armenia on Youtube, debating the topic of [“Direct-to-Consumer advertising of prescription medicines should be legalized.”](#)

The Hague Inter-University Law Debate Tournament (THIULDT) is run by the [Corax Foundation](#). According



LIAM BROWN (1L) AT THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE IN THE HAGUE.

to information on the Corax Foundation website, “The purpose of the Tournament is to foster the study of international law in connection with current developments on the global and regional levels. THIULDT provides a practical opportunity for students to efficiently apply their knowledge in a time-limited setting, exchange experiences with their peers and network. “The Tournament is held in English and focuses on the issues falling under International Law – both private and public,” the site states.

Watch the competition’s [Youtube channel](#) for recordings of the Manitobans competing against other teams from across the globe. ■

Exciting New Moot Competitions Coming to Robson Hall

The Faculty of Law encourages students to step outside the classroom and test their legal skills. Starting next year, the faculty will field teams for the Isaac Moot and the Wilson Moot, expanding opportunities for students to challenge themselves in a fun and competitive environment.

WILSON MOOT

The Wilson Moot was founded in 1992 to commemorate the late Honourable Bertha Wilson's outstanding contribution to Canadian law and is held at the Federal Court Facility in Toronto Canada. Focusing on matters concerning women and minorities, this moot aims to promote justice for those disempowered within the legal system and addresses issues not typically raised in traditional moots. Past topics have included the taxation scheme for child support payments, freedom of religion in state-funded education, and challenges to the anti-terrorism provisions of the *Criminal Code*.

ISAAC MOOT

Named after the late Chief Justice of the Federal Court, Julius Alexander Isaac, the first Black Judge to sit on the Federal Court of Canada, this moot explores topics of equity, diversity, and critical race theory. Administered by the Black Law Student Association of Canada, the goal of the moot is to advance diversity and enhance racial discourse. In support of these goals, preference and priority is given to Black Law students when selecting teams. This moot is usually held at the Ontario Court of Appeal in Toronto, with opportunities for the winners to compete internationally at the National Convention of the American National Black Law Student Association (NBLSA) Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition (TMMCC). ■

Named after the late Chief Justice of the Federal Court, Julius Alexander Isaac, the first Black Judge to sit on the Federal Court of Canada, this moot explores topics of equity, diversity, and critical race theory.

Part Three: Clinical Courses

Clinical News and Developments

The JD curriculum invites critical assessment of the role of law in society as well as the development of skills relevant to the practice of law. In addition to lectures and seminars, students are given an opportunity to develop, under supervision, some of the research, writing, and forensic skills which will prove essential in the practise of law.



Unprecedented support from Law Foundation boosts critical Law Faculty programming

by **Christine Mazur**

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on February 24, 2023)

For the first time in the history of their long-standing relationship, the Manitoba Law Foundation has granted the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law funding for both new and ongoing programs on a multi-year basis at record amounts.

By providing the province's only law school with a generous envelope supporting the core functions of legal education, research, libraries and access to justice for a duration of two to three years, as opposed to typical single-year funding, the Law Foundation's generosity will allow the Faculty to move significantly forward with both organizations' mutual strategic plan items of addressing access to justice and improving service to Indigenous communities.

Established under *The Legal Profession Act*, C.C.S.M. c. L107, The Manitoba Law Foundation's purpose is "to encourage and promote legal education; legal research; legal aid services; law reform; and the development and maintenance of law libraries" (Section 88).

The Faculty of Law checks all these boxes, being Manitoba's only law school, and home to the Legal Research Institute (LRI), and a fleet of faculty members who are internationally renowned for both their legal research and teaching excellence. The University of Manitoba Community Law Clinic (UMCLC) has been training students and ensuring access to justice for the public throughout the Faculty's fifty-year collaboration with Legal Aid Manitoba. Finally, the E.K. Williams Law Library, located on the fourth floor of Robson Hall, has supported legal education and research in Manitoba for more than 50 years.

When essential program funding is taken into account, The Manitoba Law Foundation appears on the ledger line as responsible for an incredible amount of the Faculty of Law's operations, including the UMCLC, funding to hire sessional instructors, the LRI, the Law Library, and a new Director of Access to Justice position established to begin this April.

“Without support from the Law Foundation, the fundamentals of democracy, participation and the aspiration towards a prosperous and equitable Manitoba would be undercut. We are incredibly appreciative of their investment in the Law School, which constitutes a vote of confidence that allows us to continue on these critical pathways.”


– **Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of Law**

“The Foundation's funding envelope supports key legal research, education, and the fostering of legal library holdings, so essential to the credentialing of the Law School,” said Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of the Faculty of Law. “Their funding is a vote of confidence in the Law School's autonomy and its faith in the University of Manitoba as being a capable steward of legal education, one that respects the sanctity of autonomous legal regulation and the mission of access to justice.”

“The Foundation is pleased to continue its funding of the ongoing sessional instructor program, the LRI, and the Law Library on a multi-year basis, and is excited to build on its partnership with the Faculty through the addition of the Director of Access to Justice position” said Erin Wilcott, Executive Director of the Foundation. “Additionally, the Foundation is delighted to assist the Faculty in expanding clinical opportunities for law students – while simultaneously increasing access to justice to underserved communities and populations in Manitoba – through its recent small grant funding to the UM Faculty of Law Rights Clinic.”

Jochelson emphasised that the Faculty supplies highly trained lawyers whose graduates form the main body of legal service providers in the province. “These are the people who make justice, commerce, social development and services happen,” he said. “They draft your wills, they settle your family disputes, they call authority to account, they push the envelope, and they zealously guard your liberties.”

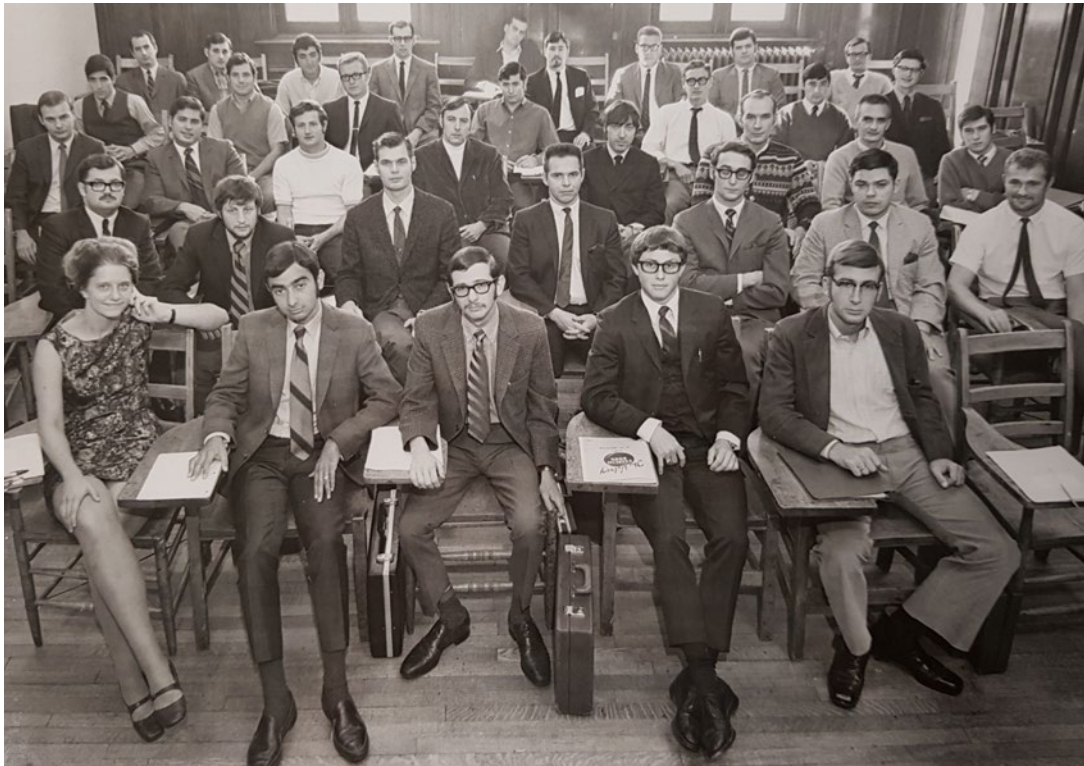
Mandated under *The Legal Profession Act* C.C.S.M. c. L107, the Manitoba Law Foundation is an organization that exists to benefit Manitobans in the areas of legal education, legal research, legal aid services, law reform, and the development and maintenance of law libraries. Its funding comes from the interest payable on funds held in Manitoba lawyers’ pooled trust accounts. ■



“The Foundation is pleased to continue its funding of the ongoing sessional instructor program, the LRI, and the Law Library on a multi-year basis, and is excited to build on its partnership with the Faculty through the addition of the Director of Access to Justice position” said Erin Wilcott, Executive Director of the Foundation.

Manitoba Law Students' Association and Faculty of Law sign agreement for critical change

From articling opportunities for diverse students to building renos for gender-neutral washrooms, change is coming to Robson Hall



Third-year law students in the fall of 1969 anticipate the opening of Robson Hall so they can attend class in their own building on the Fort Garry Campus instead of at the Downtown Law Courts. Times have changed again since then.

by Christine Mazur

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on April 14, 2023)

The Faculty of Law recently announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Manitoba Law Students' Association MLSA to accomplish two very needed areas of change. Commencing immediately, the Faculty and student group will fund two articling student positions especially for those graduating students facing challenges related to equity, diversity and inclusion. Also commencing right after exams, will be much-needed renovations to student spaces in Robson Hall, including gender-neutral washrooms and expanded study spaces.

EDI Articling Positions

Securing an articling position to complete the requirements to become a lawyer is critical for law students as they near the end of their third and final year of the *Juris Doctor* program. Unfortunately, some law students encounter greater difficulties finding articles than others. The Faculty of Law has therefore collaborated with the Manitoba Law Students' Association (MLSA) to create two articling positions at Robson Hall intended as 'safety nets' for equity-seeking students facing systemic barriers during the regular articling recruit.

This initiative is available to Robson Hall students now, with the application deadline for individuals seeking a position for the 2023-2024 articling year as **May 1, 2023**.

Faculty of Law articling students will be supervised by the Faculty's Director of Clinics, and will work on files at any of the Faculty's clinics including the University of Manitoba Community Law Centre (UMCLC), the Rights Clinic, the Access to Justice Clinic, the Indigenous Rights Clinic, and the L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic. They will also attend to work as assigned from the University of Manitoba's legal department, the (MLSA) and other work assigned in cooperation with the Faculty of Law's clinical externship partners.

With this wide variety of experiences, students should get a rich experience of practical training while attending the bar admission course known as the Practice Readiness Education Program (PREP) run by the Canadian Centre for Professional Legal Education (CPLED) and administered through the Law Society of Manitoba.

The MLSA and the Faculty of Law will each pay half of the full amount of a competitive salary for a maximum of two articling student positions to ensure that any students unable to otherwise obtain an articling position through the regular recruitment process due to systemic barriers, can still be guaranteed a chance to pursue a career in the legal profession.

A pilot of this initiative was started last year with the first Faculty of Law articling student being hired in the summer of 2022.

Renovations

The daily life of a law student has changed greatly since Robson Hall was first constructed in 1969, and the needs of the MLSA student body in 2023 has long since outgrown mid-20th Century infrastructure. The student body has also grown and become more diverse. For example, in 1966, the [preliminary description](#) of the proposed building that became Robson Hall, contemplated restrooms and lockers for only 25 to 30 female students compared to 275 – 300 male students.

The MLSA and the Faculty of Law have thus designated funds to remodel Rooms 105, 105A, B, C, and D into a secure study space with key card access, individual

study carrels, kitchenette, and Gender Inclusive Accessible Washrooms.

Construction work to implement these upgrades will commence this summer with completion estimated to be by the end of next year. ■



The daily life of a law student has changed greatly since Robson Hall was first constructed in 1969, and the needs of the MLSA student body in 2023 has long since outgrown mid-20th Century infrastructure.

New teaching staff welcomed to Faculty of Law

Business law, human rights, and clinical instruction expanding with new talent on Faculty



(Left to right) The Faculty of Law welcomes new teaching staff Dr. Akinwumi Ogunranti, Yvan Larocque, and Andrea Doyle commencing July 1, 2023.

By Christine Mazur

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on May 3, 2023)

The Office of the Dean of Law is pleased to advise that the University of Manitoba Board of Governors has confirmed the appointments of Yvan Larocque, and Andrea Doyle who will be commencing two-year Instructor II positions, and Dr. Akinwumi Ogunranti, who will commence a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Faculty of Law, all on July 1, 2023.

Dr. Akinwumi Ogunranti

Dr. Akinwumi Ogunranti (Akin) earned his LLB degree from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, and was called to the Nigerian bar in 2013. He practiced law in a full-service commercial law firm for three years before starting his graduate studies. Akin earned his LLM and Ph.D. degrees in 2017 and 2022, respectively, at the Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University. His Ph.D. thesis is titled “Africa’s Contribution to the Development of the Norm of Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights.” His research interests include business and human rights, private international law, investment law, and dispute resolution relating to corporate accountability and access to justice.

Akin has published nationally and internationally. His recent paper, “Localizing the UNGPs: An Afrocentric Approach to Interpreting Pillar II,” is published in the

Business and Human Rights Journal. His forthcoming paper on international investment law titled “Why the Multilateral Investment Court is a Bad Idea for Africa” is forthcoming in the Dalhousie Law Journal.

“I look forward to interacting with students in and outside the classroom. For me, learning is always a two-way street. I learn from the students as much as they learn from me. I want to share classrooms with students who, through innovative thinking, shape the future of legal practice in Canada.” – Dr. Akinwumi Ogunranti

He is currently a Crawford Fellow at the Schulich School of Law. He joined the teaching faculty of the Schulich community as a professor in 2019. He teaches first and upper-year courses, including contracts, professional responsibility, business and human rights, and legal ethics. He has received many awards, including the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia entrance scholarship, the Dean Ronald St. John MacDonald Graduate Fellowship in Law, the Schulich Fellowship, and the Crawford Fellowship.

Akin is licensed to practice law in Nigeria and Nova Scotia, Canada. He is a member of the Nigerian Bar, the Nova Scotia Bar Society, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and the Association of Certified Anti-money Laundering Specialists.

When asked what it was about Robson Hall that inspired his wish to join the Faculty, he explained, “The strategic vision of the law school on teaching and research was a major attraction for me. Robson Hall’s goal of supporting

students' experiential learning aligns with my teaching philosophy because I believe law cannot be taught; its application can only be learned. Similarly, the law school's business and human rights research centers that produce cutting-edge research excite me. My research focuses on the intersection of business and human rights. So, the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues in these research clusters is difficult to turn down."

If you don't see Akin in the classroom, his office, or the library, you will catch him skiing or bowling.

"Outside the classroom, I look forward to exploring the city of Winnipeg and trying out new food and sports," he said.

Yvan Larocque

Yvan Guy Larocque, CD, LL.M. is a well-respected Indigenous business lawyer and the Founder of Larocque Business Law. With a practice focused on Indigenous Economic Development and Governance, Yvan has extensive experience advising Indigenous governments and Economic Development Groups on a wide range of corporate, financing, tax, and development matters.

Yvan holds a Juris Doctor degree from the Peter A. Allard School of Law (UBC) with a Business Law Concentration and a Specialization in Aboriginal Law, as well as a Master of Laws from Osgoode Hall Law School with a Specialization in Business Law. He is called to the Bar in the Province of British Columbia and Manitoba.

Prior to joining Robson Hall as an Instructor, Yvan regularly guest lectured on the subjects Indigenous economic development and governance at the University of British Columbia and University of Victoria, and taught Commercial Law and Corporations I as a Practicing Professional Instructor.

"I'm honoured to join the faculty of at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law as an Instructor and look forward to sharing my professional experiences and knowledge with students in my courses and clinical work. I'm also looking forward to joining other Indigenous Instructors and Professors at Robson Hall in continuing to advance Reconciliation in legal education and the legal profession." – Yvan Larocque

Yvan has also had a lengthy military career, having served in the Canadian Armed Forces for over 20 years in both the Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force, and currently holds the rank of Petty Officer 1st Class.

Yvan's expertise and contributions to the field of Indigenous business law are further reflected in his co-authorship of "The Taxation and Financing of Aboriginal Businesses in Canada" (Thomson Reuters). His dedication to improving the economic opportunities and legal rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada is a testament to his commitment to justice and equality.

Andrea Doyle

Andrea R. Doyle graduated from the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law (Robson Hall) with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 2009 and was called to the Manitoba Bar in 2010. During the past thirteen years, Andrea has had a broad practice with the firm Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP (TDS). She is fluently bilingual and has practised law in both English and French. As a student at Robson Hall, Andrea was honoured to receive many academic awards, including being a Pitblado Scholar and obtaining the third highest standing in first and third year law.

Andrea has been a sessional instructor at Robson Hall since 2020 teaching the French section of Legal Negotiation (Négociation juridique) and more recently, teaching Remedies. She coached the Robson Hall negotiation team that recently participated in the Canadian National Negotiation Competition in French.

"I am happy to be joining the faculty at Robson Hall. As a student, sessional instructor and negotiation coach, I have enjoyed being a part of the Robson Hall community. I look forward to continuing to work with students in both English and French in my new role."
– Andrea Doyle

Andrea has made presentations in the areas of bankruptcy and insolvency law and French language programs. She is a member-at-large of the French Speaking Common Law Members Section Executive of the Canadian Bar Association and a member of the board of directors of l'Association des juristes d'expression française du Manitoba (AJEFM). Andrea is currently chair of the Insurance Agents' and Adjusters' Licensing Appeal Board and has been a member of the Manitoba Health Appeal Board since 2017. She has also been involved with the Manitoba Bar Association, including being a member of Council and a member of the Law Day and Mid-Winter Conference Committees. ■

UM makes Indigenous Law course mandatory for all law students, and offers new concentrations this fall

by **Christine Mazur**


(Originally Published in [UM Today](#) on December 9, 2022)

A course in Indigenous law will be mandatory for all law students starting next year, and students will also have the opportunity to focus their studies in one of three new concentrations including Private Enterprise and the Law, Law and Society, and Criminal Law and Justice, in addition to the existing concentration in Access to Justice in French. Graduate law students will also see changes to the Master of Laws program including now having the opportunity to take clinical experience electives.

At the December 7th University of Manitoba Senate meeting, changes were approved to both the Master of Laws (LLM) and Juris Doctor (JD) programs that will enhance the legal education of both undergraduate and graduate students in the Faculty of Law. Beginning in September of 2023, all new JD students will be required to take, in their second year, Indigenous Methodologies and Perspectives, currently being taught as an elective this year by Assistant Professors Leo Baskatawang and Daniel Diamond, together with Indigenous Legal Studies Coordinator Marc Kruse. The Office of the Dean of Law thanks these instructors for their hard work, and that of the Faculty of Law's Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Team in achieving the implementation of this course.

Also next September, JD students will be able to focus their studies in the new concentrations, which will be recorded on their transcripts upon graduation. LLM students will, for the first time in the history of the program at the University of Manitoba, be able to select clinical course electives to enhance their experiential learning opportunities.

The Faculty of Law extends congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Schulz and Dr. Virginia Torrie, and many thanks to Dr. Laura Reimer and Rosa Muller for their efforts in administering and facilitating these important changes to the Faculty of Law programs. ■



Also next September, JD students will be able to focus their studies in the new concentrations, which will be recorded on their transcripts upon graduation.

Director of Access to Justice and Community Engagement arrives at Faculty of Law

New position to coordinate Access to Justice Advisory Network resource and advise clinical programs

by **Christine Mazur**

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on April 11, 2023)

The Faculty of law is pleased to announce that Natasha Brown [BEd/2001; LLB/2005], former Manitoba Access to Justice Coordinator at the Law Society of Manitoba, will be joining the Faculty of Law as the Director of Access to Justice and Community Engagement on a three-year term.



The Manitoba Law Foundation had funded the creation of the former Manitoba Access to Justice Coordinator position two years ago, and Brown had served in that role on a term position.

In her new role at Robson Hall, Brown will be responsible for coordinating the Access to Justice Advisory Network, which will serve as a resource for justice system stakeholders and will help to address access to justice issues in our province. She will also bring an access to justice lens to the Faculty of Law's many clinical programs.

"On behalf of the Faculty of Law, I want to thank the Law Society of Manitoba and the Manitoba Law Foundation for their ongoing support of access to justice initiatives in Manitoba," said Dr. Richard Jochelson, Dean of Law. "We know that Natasha will

continue to excel in her leadership role on the access front, and we look forward to collaborating with her and other justice system stakeholders in a new, more collaborative model."

No stranger to Robson Hall, Brown has taught various courses at the law school over the past seven years, including the Access to Justice course, Family Law, and organized the former Western Canada Family Law Negotiation Competition.

"Her expertise and experience will be a tremendous asset to the legal education community and beyond," said Jochelson.

Brown officially begins her work with at the Faculty of Law on Monday, April 10th. ■

"Her expertise and experience will be a tremendous asset to the legal education community and beyond," said Jochelson.

Enfin, Access to Justice in French! UM Faculty of Law welcomes first cohort of French Concentration

By Christine Mazur

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on September 8, 2022)

This September, the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba will welcome the first cohort of its Access to Justice in French (A2JF) Concentration. One of few English Common Law institutions to develop and deliver a bilingual legal education, the A2JF program is unique in this regard.

“Our students are already helping InfoJustice, Manitoba’s francophone legal information centre, carry out this important work. I expect that in the decades to come, our A2JF Concentration graduates will contribute to establishing a strong network of practitioners to whom francophone Manitobans can turn for legal services in their language.”

While law students at Robson Hall have had the opportunity to take some of their law courses in French since 2011, this is the first time a formal Concentration is being offered. Official recognition of bilingual legal



New and returning law students and the program’s co-directors attended francophone night at the Goldeyes on August 30, meeting in person after two years of online learning.

“With encouragement from our local francophone bar, and working with Professor Heckman, we received our first *Justice Canada: Access to Justice in Both Official Languages* grant in 2011,” said Dr. Lorna Turnbull, Professor and co-director of the Concentration. “It is fantastic to have achieved this milestone on our path to better supporting access to justice for all Manitobans. It is also wonderful to provide so many bright future lawyers with this opportunity right here at home.”

“The A2JF Concentration formalizes and reinforces Robson Hall’s long-term commitment to improving access to justice in French in Manitoba and elsewhere in Canada,” said Dr. Gerald Heckman, Associate Professor and likewise co-director of the Concentration.

training requires that students take approximately one third of their Juris Doctor degree courses in French. Not just a handful of French electives, the Concentration is highly structured with a bi-weekly *Passport to Law in French* course being offered across all three years of the degree program bringing together first, second, and third year students. *Passport* tackles important competencies, including cultural competencies, needed in a legal career generally, and in a bilingual career in particular, exposing students to various subjects concerning French language communities in Manitoba and across Canada.

“As an out-of-province student, my decision to study at Robson Hall was because of the bilingual program,”


said Trusha Dash, a second-year law student. “The opportunity to continue and enhance my French language training in a legal capacity set the school apart... Through the bilingual program, not only did I get to network and learn in French, but I also felt a part of this close-knit community with whom I found support, friendship, and understanding. These are people I can ask for help, and count on and the value of that is immeasurable.”

Law school is no easy feat to begin with, especially for students who undertake the additional challenge of a bilingual legal education. The A2JF program at Robson Hall is committed to student success, facilitating their entry to a bilingual education with pass/fail first year bilingual courses, optional French-language tutoring provided at no charge, and the possibility for entrance scholarships. As a result, students are welcomed into the community without the pressure of marks or bell curves, and can profit from a tight-knit community and an immersion into Franco-Manitoban culture.

“Since I finished high school 10 years ago my chances to speak in French and participate in the Franco-Manitoban community had been few and far between,” said Bradley Légaré, also in second year. “The bilingual program at Robson Hall gave me the opportunity to reintegrate into the Franco-Manitoban community by way of an accepting and encouraging environment. However, the benefits I received from this program were more than just personal. The program also gave me a sense of direction for my career.”

Legal education in Manitoba must reflect that we live in a nation and province where English and French versions of laws are equally authoritative and access to the courts is guaranteed in either language. While there are Francophone minority communities throughout Canada that desire and, in many circumstances, are entitled to legal services in French, there have been limited opportunities in many common law provinces to pursue a legal education in French. The official recognition of the A2JF Concentration is an important start towards meeting this need for students and to enhancing access to justice for the clients they will ultimately be able to serve.

Development of the A2JF Concentration would not have been possible without continuing support from Justice Canada’s Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund, Heritage Canada and our many community partners, including the Association des juristes d’expression française du Manitoba, InfoJustice, Université de Saint-Boniface, Centre canadien de français juridique and francophone lawyers, judges and community members. ■



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Right off the hop: clinical learning in first year law

In their first year, students gain foundational knowledge about the law and legal research and writing. Through the mandatory first-year Legal Systems and Legal Methods courses, students get outside the classroom and engage in experiential learning opportunities, including the Judge Shadowing program in Legal Systems and the opportunity to argue a motion before a mock court in Legal Methods.

Legal Systems

Legal Systems is a comprehensive, year-long course that provides first year students with an introduction to the law, legal education, and the organizing structure and multiple systems in which the law operates. A standout feature of this course is the Judge Shadowing program, a cornerstone of Robson Hall's curriculum since 2000. This valuable opportunity allows students to step out of the classroom and into the courtroom, observing proceedings at multiple levels of the Manitoba Court system. Consistently praised by students, the Judge Shadowing program is often cited as the highlight of their first-year learning experience, describing the program as: "the best part of first year learning ... that brings together everything in the courses and adds a dose of reality."

Legal Methods

Legal Methods is a foundational course that equips first year students with essential legal research, analysis, and writing skills. Over the course of the year, students not only learn about statutory interpretation, legal citation, and professional standards and responsibilities, but in the Winter Term also develop practical skills that form the basis for the oral advocacy aspect of the course. Here, students prepare and argue a motion before a mock court held at the Provincial Law Courts, providing real-world experience and building confidence in their abilities.

UPPER YEAR OPPORTUNITIES

In their second and third years, law students participate in a range of hands-on learning opportunities. In the mandatory second-year Introduction to Advocacy course, students enhance their advocacy skills through a series of assignments and simulations which include training in witness examination, dealing with evidentiary issues, and courtroom argument skills. Additionally, the hands-on Negotiation course trains students for dispute resolution. Second and third-year students may choose to further hone their advocacy training by trying out for the Robson Hall Mooting Program, to represent Robson Hall in various moot competitions across Canada. Third year students may also choose from a range of **for-credit clinical courses** including the following:

Rights Clinic

The Rights Clinic at Robson Hall provides free legal services to clients seeking assistance with important rights-advancing issues. The clinic services include representation before courts and administrative bodies and will seek intervener status in vital cases to ensure that essential factors are fully considered. While focused on advancing environmental, Charter, Indigenous, disability, and privacy rights. Students in this course learn about the basics of public-interest litigation in Canada, focusing on applied research, writing, and oral advocacy skills to advance clients' interests effectively and ethically.


The Rights Clinic's primary mission is to enhance knowledge of rights and support public interest initiatives. As such, the clinic currently does not provide legal advice or representation services. Established just last summer, the Rights Clinic has enjoyed a successful inaugural year. Students enrolled in the fall and winter terms had the opportunity to present their projects, including a noteworthy presentation to the Public Utilities Board (PUB) on matters concerning Manitoba Public Insurance. As former Director of Clinics, Associate Professor David Ireland (as he then was) noted, "This is yet another example of how our

clinical programs are adding value the community through the hard work and dedication of our students and professors.”

The PUB Decision which was impacted by Rights Clinic students’ participation [can be found online in Proceedings Decisions](#).

Other projects include: an awareness campaign about healthcare issues focused mainly on religious symbols in hospitals; research into issues about the use of public-school spaces after school hours by outside organizations; an environmental project that focused on anti-SLAPP legislation; a non-disclosure agreement project seeking to regulate the use of NDAs in Manitoba, especially in relation to sexual abuse cases; a project on Universal Basic Income and its benefits from a rights issue perspective; and addressing rights-related issues concerning organizations receiving government grants.

to learn more about the clinic’s projects, resources, and recent website renovations. For real-time updates, follow the Rights Clinic on Instagram [@rightsclinicatrobsonhall](#). ■



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UM Law Rights Clinic students support Public Interest lawyer at Supreme Court hearing

Access to judicial review case could impact Canadians receiving social assistance

by **Christine Mazur**

(Adapted from the story originally published in [UM Today](#) on January 19, 2024)

Rights Clinic law students at Robson Hall had the opportunity to help in a very real way with a Supreme Court of Canada appeal that could influence access to justice for Canadians receiving social assistance. In particular, the case in question involved the need for individuals to have access to judicial review of administrative tribunal decisions, and whether this would only be available in “rare cases” where legislation contains a limited right of appeal.

On November 15, 2023, the case [Yatar v. TD Insurance Meloche Monnex](#), 2022 ONCA 446 (CanLII), was appealed before the Supreme Court of Canada. Faculty of Law clinical counsel Allison Fenske [LLB/2007] had been involved in the case as part of her work for Legal Aid Manitoba’s Public Interest Law Centre, which had been retained to intervene on behalf of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg and the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg. Appearing with fellow PILC lawyer Natalie Cops [LLB/2019], Fenske delivered the oral submissions to the Court.

Another intervenor party in the case, the Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC) has provided a comprehensive, plain-language summary of the case on its website in the September 18, 2023 article [“Social Assistance recipients need meaningful access to judicial review: Upcoming Supreme Court Case”](#).

In summary, Ms. Yatar was injured in a car accident. Initially, her insurer paid accident benefits but later denied all benefits. Ms. Yatar applied to the Licencing Appeal Tribunal to dispute the insurer’s denial. The Tribunal found that her application was late and statute-barred based on a two-year limitation period. Ms. Yatar commenced an appeal and a judicial review application together before the Divisional Court. The legislation contains a right of appeal on questions of law only.

This case is important before the SCC because it raises questions about access to judicial review of administrative tribunal decisions, and whether judicial

“Being able to help out, even in a small way, was an invaluable opportunity as I now have a foundational understanding about what intervening at the Supreme Court of Canada entails, and will be able to recall this experience if my work calls for it in the future.”

– **Raven Richards (3L)**

review would only be available in “rare cases” where legislation contains a limited right of appeal.

According to Fenske, “Our clients were concerned about how this decision might affect social assistance recipients in Manitoba, who can appeal government decisions about their benefits to the Social Services Appeal Board (SSAB), but then have a very limited statutory appeal of these SSAB decisions – they can only appeal to the Manitoba Court of Appeal, with leave, on questions of law. Our clients wanted to ensure that the needs of marginalized and vulnerable litigants were considered by the Court.”

Through her work as clinical counsel at Robson Hall, Fenske realised her work on the case could yield a hands-on opportunity for Rights Clinic students

Raven Richards (3L) and Tori Zillman (3L) to help with. While the PILC lawyers had already filed their written materials, the oral hearing still needed to be prepared. This included a need to review all written submissions of all parties and intervenors of whom there were 13, (Appellant, two Respondents, and 10 other intervenors) plus the replies of the Appellant and Respondents). Oral submissions also needed to be prepared.


“The students helped prepare summaries of the intervenor submissions and how their arguments interacted without our clients’ argument,” Fenske explained. “They were invited to attend legal team meetings to discuss strategy, and were also included in a moot that we arranged – my practice with appellate matters to run a moot of the argument – in this case before a couple retired Manitoba Court of Appeal judges and the rest of the legal team.”

“I feel incredibly lucky to have been able to have had some level of involvement with this file,” said Richards, a third-year law student working with the Rights Clinic. “This practical learning experience showed me and my colleague, Tori, just how much effort, preparation, and collaboration is involved in the intervening process. Being able to help out, even in a small way, was an invaluable opportunity as I now have a foundational understanding about what intervening at the Supreme Court of Canada entails, and will be able to recall this experience if my work calls for it in the future.”

At the time that the Supreme Court hearing arose, Fenske said the Rights Clinic students were working on a project regarding court interventions. “It was great timing to have an intervention before the SCC during their Rights Clinic course,” she said. “They provided important insights around the arguments that would be made before the SCC, fresh perspectives on our clients’ argument, and were a welcome addition to the legal team.”

On March 15th, 2024, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) issued a unanimous decision in favour of Ms. Yatar. The SCC ruled that judicial review should not be limited to only “rare” or “exceptional” situations where legislation contains a limited right of appeal. Instead, individuals denied the right to appeal under certain

statutory schemes may still be able to apply for judicial review on decisions where the appeal mechanism does not apply. For example, the SCC clarified that even if legislation limits appeals to questions of law, this does not eliminate the possibility of judicial review on questions of fact or a combination of fact and law. This crucial decision affirms the constitutional importance of judicial review in Canada and ensures that individuals still have avenues to appeal administrative tribunal decisions. ■



“I feel incredibly lucky to have been able to have had some level of involvement with this file,” said Richards, a third-year law student working with the Rights Clinic.

UM Law Students Support Environmental Rights Efforts

by Siena McIlwraith-Fraticelli (1L)

Since the Rights Clinic's launch in 2022 at the U of M Faculty of Law, Rights Clinic students have been engaged in a variety of important projects to protect and advance human rights through education and awareness raising initiatives. This includes projects focused on a range of human rights issues impacting environmental, Charter, Indigenous, disability, and privacy rights.

One such notable project was the recent work that Rights Clinic students Anna Evans-Boudreau (3L), Stansilava Agurova (3L), and Kassi Delorey (3L) did with the [Manitoba Eco-Network \(MbEN\)](#) in 2023-2024 focused on the recognition of environmental human rights in Manitoba. The students supported Heather Fast [B.A./2010; J.D./2013; LL.M./2018], the Policy Advocacy Director at MbEN, in her efforts to advocate at the national level for the recognition of the right to a healthy environment under the [Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999](#) (CEPA), and for the adoption of an Environmental Bill of Rights at the provincial level.

Students from the Rights Clinic and the Environmental Law Group have collaborated over the past few years with MbEN on the crucial work that the organization does to promote positive environmental action and advocate for environmental justice. In the past, UM Rights Clinic students and Environmental Law Group students have supported MbEN's environmental justice work in the areas of toxic substances, impact assessment, and recognition of environmental human rights and rights for nature.

During their most recent project with MbEN, the Rights Clinic students built on previous work done by Rights Clinic and Environmental Law Group students and conducted comparative research and gathered information on approaches used in other jurisdiction to legally recognize environmental human rights. They identified best legal practices and helpful legislative language that could be adopted for use in Manitoba. The students also created a draft environmental bill of rights in language accessible for the general public that could be potentially introduced in the Manitoba

Legislative Assembly. This work was helpful to Fast and her team, providing valuable insights that helped to inform her work at both the national and provincial levels.

Right to a Healthy Planet Webinar Event

UM law students Evans-Boudreau, Agurova, and Delorey, along with Environmental Justice student Keza Owitonze (3L) were also invited to share the insights they gained from their research about environmental rights in Canada at MbEN's regional consultation event on March 27th, 2024. The students joined various presenters from the community and representatives from Health Canada and Environment Canada to discuss the development of a framework for the newly recognized right to a healthy environment under CEPA.

"The federal implementation team was particularly interested in the feedback of youth, so the participation of the clinic students in the webinar was extremely helpful and ensured more youth voices were heard in this process. Consultations about policy and legal issues always benefit from the participation of law students who continue to impress me with their creativity and real concern for access to justice issues. This consultation event was no exception, and the contribution of the rights students helped emphasize the needs of youth, and Manitobans in general, when it comes to the legal recognition of environmental rights in Canada" said Fast.

Kassi Delorey, who has since graduated from the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law, shares her experience working on this project with the MbEN during her time at the Clinic.

"As a mother, it was important for me to do work that supports a healthy and safe planet for future generations."

Delorey also commented on her and her peers' very real concerns about access to justice issues.

"We initially found the work intimidating, but we realized it was the topic itself that was daunting, even

for those more experienced than us. This heightened our awareness of the barriers people without legal training face when advocating for their rights. We came to understand that our ability to translate complex legal concepts into plain, accessible language is our strength and a crucial way to combat the various barriers to accessing justice.” The collaborative efforts of Rights Clinic students at the University of Manitoba demonstrate the remarkable opportunities for law students to broaden their horizons, refine their skills, and make meaningful contributions to advancing pressing human rights issues. ■

More information about the Rights Clinic can be found at:

Rights Clinic website:

<https://rights-clinic.sites.umanitoba.ca>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/rightsclinicatrobsonhall/>

X (Formerly Twitter):

<https://x.com/RightsAtRobson>


More information about Manitoba Eco-Network can be found at:

MbEN website

<https://mbeconetwork.org>

MbEN Healthy Planet Webinar:

<https://mbeconetwork.org/right-to-a-healthy-environment-webinar-recording-march-27-2024/>



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Journals and Publications

Students have opportunities to work with the Faculty Members who edit the well-respected scholarly journals housed at Robson Hall, including the Manitoba Law Journal and the Canadian Journal of Human Rights- Canada's only journal focusing on Human Rights. For-credit courses are also available to second and third-year students under Scholarly Publications. This course allows students to develop their evaluation and critical analysis skills through the process of editing for publication and submissions to the Canadian Journal of Human Rights, the Manitoba Law Journal, or the Robson Crim. We introduce this section with some of the latest news stories about the Faculty of Law's Journals.



The Desautel Review owl painted by Brian Seed.

Desautels Review of Private Enterprise and the Law Merges with the Asper Review

by Connor Jonsson, 3L

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on May 5, 2023)

The *Manitoba Law Journal* is excited to announce that the *Desautels Review of Private Enterprise & Law* will be merging with the *Asper Review of International Business and Trade Law* to become *The Review of Enterprise and Trade Law*.

The *Desautels Review*, a peer-reviewed journal published annually through the *Manitoba Law Journal*, plays host to a broad range of multidisciplinary

research in order to promote a deeper understanding of the multifaceted and complex issues facing private businesses. Comparative perspectives are welcomed, as private enterprises play a vital role in the economies of many countries around the world. Last fall, a small editorial team led by Editor-in-Chief Dr. Virginia Torrie began the challenging and exciting work of launching the new law journal, which published its inaugural issue this Spring.

The *Desautels Review* experienced significant growth in its reach in its second year of operation, thanks in large part to the dedicated efforts of a much larger editorial team. The journal continued to build on the success of its inaugural issue, receiving a wide range of

high-quality articles, case comments, and book reviews that advanced the understanding of private enterprise and the law. With their expertise and their commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship, the editorial team brought new energy and fresh perspectives to the journal in its 2nd year.

This merger will expand the journal's scope to include an even wider range of legal issues facing businesses and trade around the world, while

still publishing content that focuses on the complex legal issues that face private enterprises in Manitoba. After two years of excellent work, the leadership of the *Desautels Review* will be passing from Dr. Virginia Torrie to Professor Darcy MacPherson and Dr. Bryan Schwartz. Dr. Torrie has played an invaluable role in shaping the *Desautels Review* into the reputable journal it is today and under her guidance, the law journal has made great strides in promoting a deeper understanding of the issues facing private businesses. Dr. Torrie's vision and commitment to excellence set a high bar for the *Desautels Review*, and with this merger *The Review of Enterprise and Trade Law* is committed to carrying forward that vision.

As *The Review of Enterprise and Trade Law* opens an exciting new chapter, it does so with a strong foundation and a clear mandate to advance the understanding of private enterprise and the law while

expanding to cover matters of global interest, including international economics and geo-politics. The journal's commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship, high-quality content, and meaningful engagement with its readers and contributors will undoubtedly continue to drive its success in the years to come. The Desautels Centre is excited for the future of the journal and looks forward to the continued growth and success of *The Review of Enterprise and Trade Law*.

Please read the [Manitoba Law Journal 45.2: The inaugural issue of the Desautels Review of Private Enterprise & Law – Fall 2022](#).

This story was updated to include the finalized title of the merged Review. ■

Academic Journals

The Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba publishes various academic legal journals each with a unique focus, contributing to scholarly legal discussions relevant to Canada and the rest of the world. The journals include:

Canadian Journal of Human Rights

The *Canadian Journal of Human Rights* (CJHR) is a peer-reviewed journal that deals with human rights, humanitarian law, and policy relevant to Canadian society. Founded in 2012 by Dr. Donn Short, the CJHR provides an inclusive space, welcoming traditional legal scholarship and contributions across various disciplines, including liberal arts and social sciences. As part of its commitment to an Open Access Policy, the CJHR makes all articles freely accessible for download on its website.

The Manitoba Law Journal

The *Manitoba Law Journal* (MLJ) is a peer-reviewed journal that has stood the test of time, publishing regularly since 1961. The Journal brings diverse and multi-disciplinary perspectives to the issues it studies, drawing from authors across Canada and beyond. Its mission is to provide lively, independent and high-caliber commentary on legal events in Manitoba or events of special interest to our community. The Journal has seven distinct dimensions of focus with their own regular special issues. Published volumes are accessible online through the Journal's website, CanLII, and other online academic databases.

The Current Legal Landscape

The Current Legal Landscape is the first dimension of the *Manitoba Law Journal*, dedicated to examining developments within the courts and tribunals of Manitoba. First published in 2012, this section has produced six special issues to date, each contributing significantly to the scholarly analysis of local legal developments. These issues offer in-depth insights into the evolving legal landscape of Manitoba, reflecting its ongoing changes and challenges.

Underneath the Golden Boy

Underneath the Golden Boy is the second dimension of the *Manitoba Law Journal*, arising from Professor Schwartz's Legislative Process course. First appearing as a special edition in 2001, this journal focuses on developments in legislation and parliamentary and democratic reforms. It serves a vital purpose by advancing the potential and understanding of political advocacy in Manitoba through insights into parliamentary procedures and political structure.

Robson Crim

Robson Crim, the third dimension of the *Manitoba Law Journal*, focuses on the social dimensions of criminal law. It welcomes submissions in the areas of criminal law, criminology, criminal justice, and related disciplines from scholars in Canada, the USA, and around the world. Since 2016, *Robson Crim* has published 2-4 volumes annually, offering comprehensive analyses and discussions on key issues in the criminal law field. The Journal has featured papers from leading academics in criminal law, criminology, law and psychology, and criminal justice.

The Legal Profession

The Legal Profession is the fourth dimension of the *Manitoba Law Journal*, formally established in 2012 with the special issue "Five Chief Justices in Manitoba" in MLJ 36.3. This dimension explores the histories of major developments and key figures in Manitoba law, as well as the rapid evolution of legal practice. It enriches the scholarly discourse by documenting transformative moments and influential personalities, thereby shedding light on the growth and changes within Manitoba's legal landscape and the broader Canadian context.

The Interdisciplinary Journal of Indigenous Inaakonigewin

Established in 2023, the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Indigenous Inaakonigewin* (IJII) is the fifth dimension of the *Manitoba Law Journal*. It aims to unite scholars, community leaders, and artists who are interested in Indigenous law and remedies for justice. In the spirit of truth and reconciliation, its mission is to provide a diverse and inclusive platform where teachers and students of all ancestral heritages can come together across all academic disciplines to share their research and knowledge of Indigenous history, politics, law, education, health, business, and artistic expression. While the journal accepts submissions from all territories and nations, its primary interest and focus is on Manitoba and the Prairies.

The Business Trade Law Review

The Business Trade Law Review, the sixth dimension of the *Manitoba Law Journal*, was established through the merger of the *Desautels Review* and the *Asper Review of International Business and Trade Law*. This new dimension of MLJ addresses a broad range of topics, focusing on the legal issues facing business and trade in Manitoba and worldwide. Dedicated to interdisciplinary scholarship, *the Business Trade Law Review* strives to engage with its readers and contributors, enriching the academic and practical understanding of enterprise and trade law.

Sports and the Law

Sports and the Law was established in 2023 and is the seventh dimension of the *Manitoba Law Journal*. It was co-founded by Assistant Professor Martine Dennie at Robson Hall and Associate Professor Ryan Gauthier at the Faculty of Law at Thompson Rivers University. This journal focuses on developments in sports law within Canada. Although it has yet to publish its first special in the *Manitoba Law Journal*, it has already started publishing blogs that engage with the topic.

Scholarly Publications

Scholarly Publications are an excellent way for students wanting to gain practical experience with scholarly writing. Currently, The Faculty of Law offers three for-credit courses which include:

Robson Crim

Under the guidance of Dean Richard Jocholson, students will engage in editing submissions for a blawg, as well as related research projects. The course includes the creation of critical blawgs that align with the mandate of Robson Crim, enhancing students' skills in legal scholarship and editorial practice. With nearly 40 academic peer collaborators at Canada's top law schools, Robson Crim is bringing leading criminal law research and writing to the readers.

The Manitoba Law Journal

Scholarly Publications, led by Professor Bryan Schwartz, gives students hands-on experience with legal research. Students are involved in the editorial process, including inviting submissions, screening them, coordinating internal and external peer reviews, working with the authors on revisions, and copy editing. Students are also involved in creating conferences and symposiums and helping to research or write publishable material.

Canadian Journal of Human Rights

This course is a key component of the clinical program offered in the Robson Hall Faculty of Law. The course is run by Associate Dean Donn Short, the Editor in Chief of CJHR. Participants develop their evaluation and critical analysis skills by editing submissions to the CJHR and are responsible for conducting full substantive copy edits on two to three articles throughout the year. Additionally, students cultivate their interpersonal skills through working with authors on their manuscripts and supervising and managing junior editors' work. ■

Master of Human Rights program 2024 Symposium showcases research on important topics

Combination of practicum placements and research papers form solid education and experience in human rights progress

The Masters of Human Rights (MHR) is an interdisciplinary program training students practically and academically for careers in human rights work. The MHR Practicum Program is a 16-month program that places graduate students with leading local and international human rights organizations to gain practical, hands-on experience doing human rights work. In the past, students have been placed with The Manitoba Human Rights Commission, Legal Aid and Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY).

“The Symposium is a great chance for students to share and receive feedback on their research,” said Dr. Kjell Anderson, Director of the MHR program. “It’s also a way for our program to connect with the broader Winnipeg human rights community, who are crucial partners in our community of human rights research and practice.”

Evandro Andrade did his practicum with Immigration Partnership Winnipeg (IPW) and worked with his advisor, Faculty of Law Professor, Dr. Amar Khoday



Master of Human Rights students presented their work both in-person and online at the 2024 Symposium at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights MTS Classroom.

By Christine Mazur

(Excerpted from the story published in [UM Today](#) on February 9, 2024)

The Master of Human Rights program’s annual Symposium took place on Wednesday, January 25, 2024 at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The symposium gives students enrolled in both the interdisciplinary graduate degree’s practicum and thesis streams an opportunity to present their research and share field experience gained from their respective placement sites.

Twelve students presented their work in four different panels organized in topics including Gender and Human Rights, Indigenous and Minority Rights, New Horizons in Human Rights, and Migration, Displacement and Human Rights.

to develop his major research paper, “The Impact of Sanctuary City Policies on Healthcare Access for Immigrants in Winnipeg.” Formerly an Intelligence Analyst at the Brazilian Intelligence Agency and an International Assistant Advisor at the Ministry of Mines and Energy in Brazil, Andrade explored Canada’s decentralized health rights system in his paper. He also reviewed Winnipeg’s Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Policy, contrasting different Sanctuary City Policy (SCP) implementations globally. His aim was to bridge the gap between International Human Rights Law, International Refugee Law, and public policy, underscoring the need for comprehensive strategies that align with international commitments.

Erin Gobert, who currently works as a Research Coordinator at Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse (RESOLVE), is in the MHR program’s thesis stream and is completing her thesis

on “Human Rights and Reproductive Health Care in Rural, Remote, and Northern Manitoba.” With guidance from her advisor Dr. Linda Larcombe of the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, she is studying whether there are human rights violations regarding reproductive health care in rural, remote, and northern (RRN) Manitoba.

Nabil Iqbal, who practiced law in India with a specialization in Human Rights, already has experience contributing to constitutional and human rights cases. He interned at the National Human Rights Commission and in the MHR program, is working with supervisor Dr. Nathan Derejko, Mauro Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice, on a thesis regarding “Refining Legal Frameworks for Cross-border Climate-Induced Displacement: A Comprehensive Analysis of Provisions, Definitions, and New Arrangements under International Law.” Iqbal’s work aims to offer a comprehensive overview of existing legal protections, propose a refined and universally applicable term, namely, “climate refugee,” and present innovative legal arrangements. His overall goal is to contribute to the discourse on cross-border climate-induced displacement of persons in international law.

Yuri Suzuki completed her practicum at the Manitoba Association of Rights and Liberties (MARL) and presented her major research paper, “Toward Equality: Exploring the Dowa Education’s Role in Overcoming Buraku Discrimination in Japan.” Suzuki has a background in working in the field of children’s rights and her advisor is Dr. Adam Muller, Department of English, Faculty of Arts. Suzuki’s paper’s concern is discrimination in Japan against the Burakumin people, who are racially and ethnically Japanese but have historically been considered “unclean.” To address this systematic discrimination, Dowa education was implemented in Japan in 1969, involving initiatives that required schools to teach children about the Buraku problem, fostering understanding and promoting equality.

Students invited family and friends to attend as well as practicum mentors and thesis advisors. About 18 individuals also attended the event online including professors, advisors, mentors, alumni, and practicum

placement staff who were unable to attend in-person. Attendees who joined in-person included University of Manitoba professors from the Faculties of Social Work, Law, Arts (the Department of History), and Medicine, as well as representatives from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, the Human Rights Hub, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, and members of the public.

Students in the practicum stream undertake work placements with leading local and international human rights organizations to gain practical, hands-on experience doing human rights work. Recent graduates are sometimes offered paid employment with their practicum organization following the completion of their hours. Students in the thesis stream work with an advisory committee whose members are experts in their corresponding thesis topic and help guide the student through the intensive research required to complete their research.

Topics ranged from access to healthcare policies for immigrants to climate-change refugees to incorporating Indigenous knowledge into Human Rights Policy. Women’s rights and Medical Assistance in Dying were also significant topics covered. ■

Part Four: Volunteering & Career Development

At Robson Hall, experiential learning is a core focus, with a strong emphasis on career development and volunteer work. The law school employs a variety of career development programs to ensure students are well-prepared for their professional futures. Many students contribute their time to various volunteer projects throughout the year and gain invaluable experience along the way.

Career Development Office



Year-long Career Month at Faculty of Law

November is National Career Development Month, but Law's CDO works year-round

by **Christine Mazur**

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on November 16, 2022)

November may be officially designated as national career month, but staff and students at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law work hard year-round to ensure graduating students have career options lined up as they near their respective finish lines.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The Faculty has a Career Development Office (CDO) in which the Career Development Coordinator, Lisa Griffin, organizes events including information sessions and workshops throughout the year on a regular cycle, to keep students informed about job opportunities and training and on their toes from first year to graduation. She maintains the Job Board and engages members of the practicing bar and judiciary to give presentations on what it's like to clerk at the court or work in public or private practice areas, and meets with students one-on-one to review their resumés, cover letters, discuss networking, job search and interview techniques.

"It's been an incredibly busy fall with out-of-province and Winnipeg summer placement recruits, many networking receptions, information sessions and a very busy appointment schedule," said Griffin of the 2022 Fall Term. "Hard to believe December exams are around the corner. We then kick it into high gear again beginning in January with further recruits, both summer and articling, more networking events, workshops and round table events. Our students certainly have a lot to juggle but I could not be more proud of how they manage everything with such integrity, dedication and grace."

Griffin recently organized an information session on Clerkship at the Federal Court at which The Honourable Justice Roger LaFreniere spoke to students, and has a Resumé and Cover Letter Information Session scheduled for November 16, followed by an Out of Province Information Session for first year law students

scheduled for November 22. Ongoing are wine and cheese receptions that Winnipeg Law Firms regularly host to meet and welcome law students to Manitoba's legal community.

"I love what I do and my role at the Faculty of Law. Working with our students is incredibly rewarding," said Griffin.

DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Director of Professional Development, Trina McFadyen, is an alumnus of the Faculty of Law and practiced law in Winnipeg for over a decade. Trina engages with both alumni and colleagues in the legal profession and works to maintain and strengthen the relationship between the Faculty and the practicing bar to benefit students entering practice. Trina develops resources for law students to assist them with navigating interviews, networking events, finding articling jobs and understanding the in-and-outs of working in the legal profession. As a lawyer who is still connected to the practicing bar, Trina brings a wealth of knowledge to the students of UM Law.

"We are fortunate at Robson Hall to have an engaged and supportive practicing bar, many of whom went to law school here and that includes me," said McFadyen. "The Manitoba Bar and Bench are incredibly giving of their time and knowledge to help law students succeed. I feel my job is not only to assist the students as they navigate their time in law school and their professional goals but to also be their biggest cheerleader along the way."

MANITOBA LAW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (PDC)

Throughout the year, The PDC works closely with the Career Development Office to provide Robson Hall students with opportunities and resources to

develop their professionalism by encouraging them to attend networking events with firms and practitioners, assisting students in the initial stages of preparing their resumés and cover letters, and collaborating with the CDO to facilitate workshops and panels throughout the school year. Most recently, the PDC organized the Law Banquet, held in-person at the Winnipeg Art Gallery on October 19. This much-anticipated annual event provides law students with the opportunity to sit down with practicing members of the Manitoba legal community to create genuine connections while gaining valuable insight into working in the legal industry.

Associate Dean, Dr. Jennifer L. Schulz noted that law students are understandably focussed on their future careers. “We are very pleased with the developing professionalism of our students, their proactivity, and genuine desire to learn and excel as future lawyers. Therefore, we will continue to support them with networking opportunities such as the Law Banquet, and more importantly, with an excellent legal education.”

Upcoming career development events law students can look forward to, include a roundtable with smaller law firms organized by the PDC, a mentorship mixer for first-year law students organized by the Manitoba Bar Association, and ongoing info-sessions and job opportunity postings, circulated by the Career Development Office. ■



“It’s been an incredibly busy fall with out-of-province and Winnipeg summer placement recruits, many networking receptions, information sessions and a very busy appointment schedule,” said Griffin of the 2022 Fall Term.

Legal Super Heroes

Manitoba's Pro Bono Students Canada volunteers fight for access to justice

Story Submitted by the Faculty of Law with PBSC Manitoba Chapter

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) on July 14, 2023)

Pro Bono Students Canada is a national pro bono organization with Chapters at 22 law schools across the country, including the University of Manitoba. The PBSC's mission is to provide free legal support to people and communities facing barriers to justice. Each year, about 1,500 PBSC volunteers provide approximately 120,000 hours of free legal services to over 400 organizations, courts and tribunals across the country. PBSC matches law student volunteers ("Student Volunteers") to Partner Organizations to provide free legal support to people and communities facing barriers to justice. By exposing law students to the value of Pro Bono service, PBSC aims to encourage the next generation of lawyers to make pro bono service an everyday part of their practice. Volunteering with PBSC is open to first, second and third year law students.

Volunteers at the University of Manitoba chapter have gained valuable legal experience in clinical settings, on research projects, and as legal interns throughout the Academic Year. Past partners have included the Community Legal Education Association, the Legal Help Centre, and JusticeTrans. PBSC Volunteer Placements are posted each September with details about the type of project, who the project is for, an overview of the project, and the areas of law the placement engages with. Applications are sent out to students with the postings and are due in September as well, with placements starting in October. Exact dates change year to year, but PBSC will email all students prior to each important recruitment date as well as post on its social media and the MLSA Facebook page.

The PBSC Manitoba chapter can be emailed at [probono \[at\] umanitoba \[dot\] ca](mailto:probono[at]umanitoba[dot]ca) any time throughout the year for more information in regards to recruitment and volunteering with PBSC.

In 2022 – 2023, the PBSC Manitoba Chapter coordinators were Tyson Priebe (2L), and Ashley Bains (3L). They reported that 68 law students participated in PBSC placements over the last year assisting the following 17 organizations:

- Canadian Civil Liberties Association
- Community Legal Education Association
- Community Unemployed Help Centre
- Creative Manitoba
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- JusticeTrans
- Law Society of Manitoba
- Level Justice
- Manitoba Eco-Network
- Manitoba Association of Rights and Liberties
- Manitoba Harm Reduction Network
- Manitoba Law Reform Commission
- New Directions
- Rainbow Resource Centre
- Resource Assistance for Youth
- Sex Workers of Winnipeg Action Coalition
- Winnipeg Food Council

Developing advocacy & research skills

Students worked on a variety of projects that centred around conducting legal research, creating Public Legal Education materials, and directly assisting clients by providing legal information or referrals. All students involved in PBSC learned about the barriers to Access to Justice that many communities face in Manitoba, and received legal research training. However, the specific communities and barriers that students learned about during their volunteer experiences differed between partner organizations. For example, students placed with the Community Unemployed Help Centre would have learned about communities that face barriers to access to justice from their socio-economic circumstances. These students worked to create plain-language documentation for the advocates that assist these individuals navigate the Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) system, which solidified the students' legal research and plain-language writing skills.

Supervisors and Student Volunteers

The PBSC-Manitoba Chapter was supervised over the past year by Trina McFadyen, Director of Professional Development. McFadyen graduated from the Faculty of Law in 2000 and practiced law at Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP and Great-West Life. McFadyen hands the supervisory reins over this year to Natasha Brown, another alum of the Faculty (Class of 2005), and its new Director of Access to Justice and Community Engagement. Brown, a former family law practitioner, served as Access to Justice coordinator at the Law Society of Manitoba prior to returning to Robson Hall, and was former Legal Director of the Legal Help Centre of Winnipeg. With a Bachelor's degree in Education, she has long been involved with the Association for Canadian Clinical Legal Education and served as its president.

With Ashley Bains having now graduated (Class of 2023), Erin McIntyre (2L) joins Priebe (now going into his third year) as co-coordinator for 2023 – 2024. Together, they gathered some feedback from fellow law students who volunteered for PBSC last year.

Talia David, who graduates in 2025, volunteered throughout her first year and was placed with the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

Through this placement I assisted with transcription and research for a Bail and Pre-Trial Detention Report. I began by visiting the listening room at the courthouse and transcribing my assigned dates, and I was also given the opportunity to continue researching detention and bail related matters across Canada to be utilized in the report. This was an amazing opportunity to not only learn about the conditions of our justice system, but to also be a part of positive change so early on in my legal journey.

Jordan Wagner will enter his second year of law as class representative and will graduate in 2025. He worked with the Community Unemployed Help Centre, a non-profit organization that provides support and resources to unemployed individuals in the community.

Our team developed an Advocate's Guide to Employment Insurance. We designed the document to help the organizations advocates better assist clients with their EI claims. Through this experience, I had the opportunity to improve my research skills by analyzing EI legislation. Furthermore, I had the privilege of working with an exceptional and highly skilled team. Lastly, volunteering with PBSC allowed me to further

develop valuable teamwork and communication skills. Joining PBSC was one of the best decisions that I made during 1L because of the positive impact that our project can have on the community!

Lauren Martin will also graduate in the class of 2025 and volunteered with New Directions during her first year of law school. She worked on a project aimed at providing access to healthcare for marginalized populations. Her contributions included researching provincial and federal legislation to create a plain language document to ensure that every Canadian understands their rights with regards to healthcare.

I was grateful for the opportunity to volunteer with New Directions during 1L. PBSC allowed me to not only gain valuable hands-on experience and skills, but also discover my own potential to make a tangible difference. It's an opportunity to challenge yourself, broaden your perspectives, and contribute to causes that resonate with your values. I would recommend to every incoming 1L to sign up with PBSC if they are able!

The PBSC Manitoba Chapter will host its official launch event for the 2023 – 2024 school year on October 6. All law students at the University of Manitoba are invited to watch for an email with details about the program coming from the coordinators this fall.

PBSC Manitoba can be contacted at: [probono \[at\] umanitoba \[dot\] ca](mailto:probono[at]umanitoba[dot]ca) ■

Information about the chapter is online:

PBSC Manitoba:

<https://umanitoba.ca/law/student-experience/student-groups#local-chapters-of-national-organizations>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/pbscmanitoba/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pbscmanitoba>

X (formerly Twitter):

<https://x.com/pbscmanitoba>

PBSC Manitoba operates due to the generous funding provided by the University of Manitoba and the following various external funders:

- [The Manitoba Law Foundation](#)
- [The Manitoba Law Students' Association](#)
- [McCarthy Tetrault](#)
- [WestlawEdge™ Canada](#)
- [The Law Foundation of Ontario](#)

Making a Difference: PBSC Manitoba Students Support Their Community

by Siena McIlwraith-Fraticelli (1L)

U of M law students have a tradition of volunteering for the Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC) program, the largest pro bono organization in the country. With chapters in 22 law schools across Canada, PBSC offers students the opportunity to provide legal support through a range of activities and in a variety of settings. These include assisting with research, public legal education, court assistance, and legal clinical work, all under the supervision of a practicing lawyer.

Celebrating another successful year, students at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law once again volunteered with the PBSC Manitoba Chapter providing free legal services to people and communities facing barriers to access to justice.

Each September interested first, second, and third-year law students are matched with community-based organizations where they gain practical, real-world experience while providing welcome support to deserving organizations. As part of the program, students receive anti-oppression and legal research training, as well as specialized training tied to the specifics of their project.

In 2023-2024, the PBSC Manitoba Chapter was supervised by Natasha Brown [B.E.d./2001; L.L.B./2005], the new Director of Access to Justice and Community Engagement, and led by student-coordinators Erin Kyriakopoulos (2L) and Tyson Priebe (3L). Remarkably, the student coordinators reported that 71 law students participated in PBSC placements this year, assisting 19 organizations. These numbers are slightly higher than last year's equally impressive turnout. This success was due to the students, the organizations, and the fantastic support from the supervising lawyers, with both new and returning participants contributing to the program.

The participating organizations for this year were:

- CoHabit
- Community Legal Education Association
- Elizabeth Fry Society

- Family Resolution Services
- Healthy Muslim Families
- Innocence Canada
- Legal Aid Manitoba
- Legal Help Centre
- Level Justice
- Manitoba Eco-Network
- Manitoba Harm Reduction Network
- Manitoba Law Reform Commission
- New Directions
- Rainbow Resource Centre
- Resource Assistance for Youth (RaY)
- Sex Workers of Winnipeg Action Coalition
- Thrive Community Support Circle
- Welcome Place
- Winnipeg Food Council

Student Volunteers

This summer, I gathered feedback from law students who, like me, had volunteered for PBSC during the 2023-2024 year. Here is what they had to say about their experiences:

Marianne Hofmann, a first-year student at Robson Hall, completed her clinical placement at Welcome Place. Welcome Place offers a broad range of settlement services for newcomers and refugee sponsors. During her placement, Hofmann directly assisted refugee clients who needed to complete "Basis of Claim" documentation.

My assignment was to conduct client intake and draft Basis of Claim and Narrative documents for review by my supervising lawyer. Clients provided me with all the details related to the Incident(s) of Harm that resulted in the departure from their home country and I was responsible for summarizing the client's life story, with a focus on the Incident of Harm. This assignment provided me with numerous learning opportunities

throughout the term, enhancing my communication, writing and office management skills. I really enjoyed working with the clients and would highly recommend the placement to any first-year student who is looking for an introduction to practical experience!

Rowan Black, also a first-year student, had the opportunity to work with the Elizabeth Frye Society of Manitoba, researching and creating legal a legal memo on the drug decriminalization model in British Columbia for use in Manitoba.

While the research I conducted was focused on numbers and statistics, I also had the chance to look into the mindsets and opinions of those living in Manitoba and B.C regarding addiction and drug decriminalization. This was integral as it allowed me not only to compare and analyze the available data, but to see how it directly impacts communities. Seeing the changes that are occurring and the impact on people is incredibly important to me as I believe that law can be about supporting community, even when you are not directly interacting with the community. I would recommend research-based PBSC placements to first year students who are looking to expand their research skills and create a foundation of knowledge to aid them in future endeavors.

Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award

Each year, PBSC honors one student volunteer from each chapter with the Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award. This award recognizes outstanding work, leadership, and commitment to PBSC's mission of providing free legal support to people and communities facing barriers to justice. In 2023, Seth Lozinski (3L) received the Richard Wagner Award for their work at the Rainbow Resource Centre Trans ID Clinic. This year, the PBSC winner of the Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award is Josh Gandier (1L), for his work at New Directions, creating resources on wills and estate planning for both internal and public use. New Directions is a non-profit, community-based organization offering a range of support services to meet the specific needs of its community.

Recognizing the disparity in resources and the challenges marginalized individuals face in accessing legal assistance when organizing their wills and estates, Gandier demonstrated exceptional initiative and leadership as the communication lead for a team of four other PBSC student volunteers. Together with his team, and under the supervision of Krista Clendenning [JD/2017; T.E.P./2021], the five students conducted research covering topics such as estate planning, administration, wills, and power of attorney; and created an informational brochure accessible to the public. Additionally, the students presented their findings to New Directions staff members, sharing their research on the various topics they researched on throughout their placement.

I would recommend it to first-year students. PBSC gives you opportunities to do meaningful work for people in the community. I am Winnipeg born and raised, so to do something like this with an organization that does good things, especially during my first year, was important to me.

Riley Parker (now going into his second year) and Kyriakopoulos (now going into her third year) will replace Tyson Priebe (now graduated, Class of 2024) as co-coordinators for the upcoming 2024-2025 year. We are excited to see the outstanding contributions students will make next year!

The PBSC Manitoba Chapter is set to host its official launch event for the 2024-2025 school year between late September and early October. Students should keep an eye out for emails from the coordinators with details on how to participate. ■

CanU: The Next Generation – of lawyers

Law students share university experiences with middle and high-school kids



by **Christine Mazur**

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) March 3, 2023)

Each year, since at least 2017, law students at Robson Hall have run a CanU law school program for Winnipeg High School students. [CanU is a Winnipeg-based charitable organization](#) that coordinates programs designed and led by post-secondary student volunteers. CanU kids participate in a wide range of educational experiences on post-secondary campuses and develop their nutrition, health, academic, social, and leadership skills. Law students Xiyuan Feng (3L) and Mursal Ismael (2L) are running the program this year and will be promoting it at CanU's Family Festival taking place on Thursday, March 9, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the University of Manitoba's University Centre Multipurpose room.

According to Feng and Ismael, about 30 to 40 high school students take part each semester. Last fall, Winnipeg students from grades 7 to 9 took part, and this winter, grades 5 and 6 are attending CanU law school.

Recently, Feng said students were learning the basic principles in various areas of law including criminal law and constitutional law as part of the academic, learning component. As a practical component, the law students introduce advocacy by having the kids try their hands at trial and negotiation.

Our lessons provide some ideas about what our legal system looks like and inspire students to explore [law] in the future. – Xiyuan Feng, 3L

"Students are very eager to know about law and law school," said Feng. "We frequently receive questions like how to be a lawyer in the future, what is law school like. We definitely find many future lawyers."

During the fall term, the CanU law school volunteers had participants practice their advocacy skills in a mini moot at the Winnipeg Law Courts building in front of a special guest speaker, The Honourable Judge Kusham Sharma. "When our guest speaker, Judge Sharma, joined us, students submitted their arguments confidently in front of her and discussed legal issues with her," said Feng.

The CanU Family Festival and Learning Fair is a chance for CanU students to come and show their families what they did in different CanU programs, including CanU Law. There will be up to 500 students from Grades 5-12 from different CanU programs in attendance, and they will be accompanied by their parents, siblings and teachers. ■

Conference shines spotlight on 2SLGBTQ+ legal perspectives

Law Students, MBA SOGIC section collaborate on 'Queersay Evidence' Feb 24



by **Christine Mazur**

(Originally published in [UM Today](#) February 3, 2023)

The OUTLaws student group at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law is collaborating with the Manitoba Bar Association's SOGIC (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Conference) section to host a conference regarding the unique legal issues that face 2SLGBTQ+ people living in Manitoba. The conference is also supported by the Manitoba Law Foundation.

Taking place on Friday, February 24, 2023 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in Robson Hall's Harry Walsh, Q.C. Moot Courtroom, the conference titled "Queersay Evidence: 2SLGBTQ+ Perspectives on the Law in Manitoba," is free and open to all, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. Members of the MBA should register at the [MBA website](#), and members of the general public are invited to register by sending an email to [sections\[at\]cba-mb\[dot\]ca](mailto:sections[at]cba-mb[dot]ca).

One of the conference organizers, second-year law student Lou Lamari (they/them), explained that the inspiration behind planning the conference came from the lived experiences of fellow students. "We, as queer and trans members of OUTLaws, are constantly needing to grapple with the reality that our community faces unique obstacles, ranging from basic recognition, to acceptance, to systemic issues concerning health care and discrimination."

Because both the law student and practicing professional communities are so small in Manitoba, the

members of OUTLaws decided to plan a conference for both students and members of the practicing bar, to create an opportunity for the legal community at large to learn more about the specific issues the 2SLGBTQ+ community faces. "We have received excellent support from the Robson Hall faculty and administration, along with the Manitoba Bar Association and Manitoba Law Foundation," said Lamari. "It feels very affirming to have these organizations stand behind and alongside us, which gives us confidence that this is a topic that people are interested in learning more about."

Access to Justice includes access to the study and practice of law. By centering 2SLGBTQ+ perspectives among legal experts, our goal is to provide representation for queer community members who may feel unwelcome or unsafe within the legal field.
– **Seth Lozinski, 2L (they/them)**

The lineup of guest speakers for the conference includes The Honourable Judge Kael McKenzie [LLB/2006], Kristine Barr (CUPE) [LLB/2005], and Dell Dyck (TDS) [JD/2019], and a discussion panel featuring service facilitators that work directly with the 2SLGBTQ+ community in Manitoba.

McKenzie is Canada's first transgender judge, who was appointed to the Provincial Court of Manitoba in December of 2016. He graduated from the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law in 2006 and worked both in private practice and as a Crown prosecutor in family, commercial and civil law. He is a proud member of the Manitoba Métis Nation and formerly served in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Barr graduated from the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law in 2005 and practiced law at a private firm and a not-for-profit organization providing domestic violence legal services before working for CUPE as a labour lawyer.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER JUDGE KAEL MCKENZIE

Dyck is a Métis-Cree person from the Red River Settlement and an associate lawyer at Thompson Dorfman Sweatman, practicing primarily in the areas of Privacy and Data Protection law, Wills and Estate Planning and Administration, and Aboriginal law. She graduated from the Faculty of Law in 2019. ■

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